SCARY BOOK

INSECTS

楳図かずお KAZUO UMEZU

VOLUME 2

SCARY BOOK

INSECTS

KAZUO UMEZU

VOLUME 2

GRAPHIC NOVEL/ MANGA / HORROR

SCARY BOOK

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Kazuo Umezu, "The Stephen King of manga," returns with the second frightening volume of *Scary Book*. In "Butterfly Grave," a young woman, Megumi, is paralyzed by an inexplicable, devastating fear of butterflies, a phobia brought on by the mysterious and untimely death of her mother when Megumi was still an infant. Upon visiting her mother's grave years after her death, Megumi becomes haunted by a black butterfly that only she can see and which seemingly causes waves of destruction and misery to Megumi's family and friends wherever it appears. But when Megumi's father decides to remarry, Megumi begins to fear that her new mother is turning into the very thing she dreads most.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

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梅図かずお KAZUO UMEZU

VOLUME 2

Translation **Kumar Sivasubramanian**

Lettering and retouch **Kathryn Renta**

DARK HORSE MANGA™

Mike Richardson publisher

Chris Warner editor

David Nestelle collection designer

Lia Ribacchi art director

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SCARY BOOK vol. 2: INSECTS

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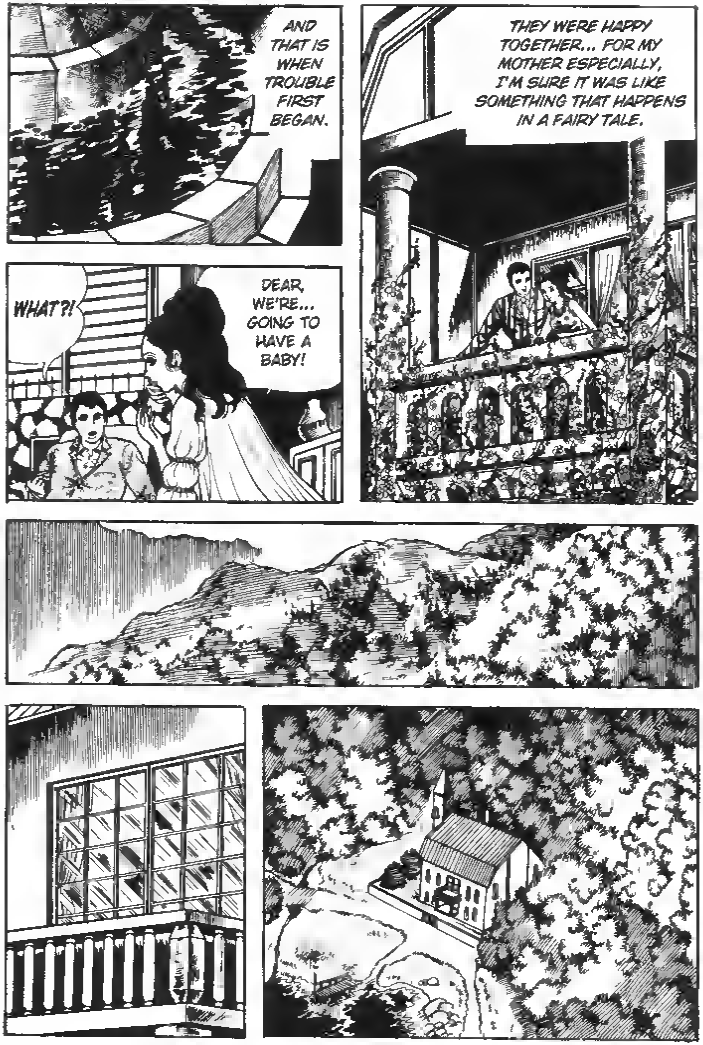
"INSECTS"

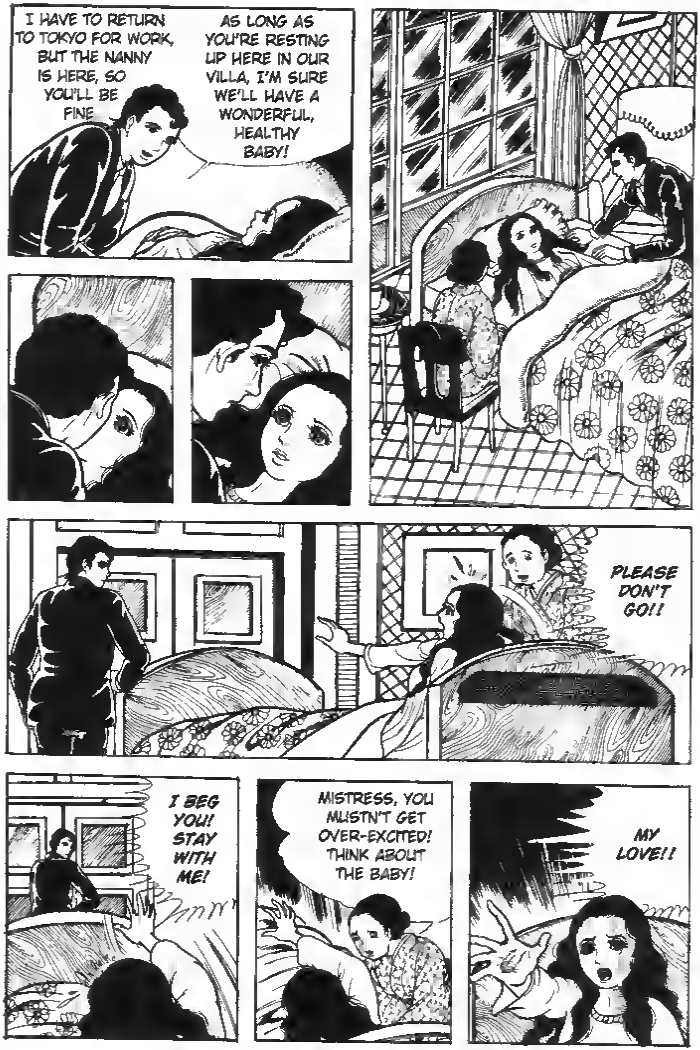
FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHY I SEE BUTTERFLIES THE WAY I DO, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY CHILDHOOD... NO, PERHAPS WE MUST GO BACK FURTHER, TO MY MOTHER'S LIFE OF ILL FORTUNE. HOWEVER, WHEN YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, I HOPE YOU WILL SWEAR TO NEVER TELL ANYONE THE SECRET, NOT SO MUCH FOR MYSELF, BUT FOR HER ..
MY MOTHER ..
..WAS BORN BEARING THE BURDEN OF A SAD FATE.

WITHOUT FRIENDS OR FAMILY, MY MOTHER LIVED A LIFE OF PERSECUTION, LIKE A STRAY CAT.
SHE GREW UP ALWAYS MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE.
AND THEN ONE DAY, SHE MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF A WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN...
... AND FELL IN LOVE.

OF COURSE, THERE WERE RIVALS FOR HIS AFFECTIONS, MAKE NO MISTAKE BUT THE YOUTH LOVED MY INNOCENT MOTHER DEVOTEDLY.
AND SO SHE MARRIED THAT YOUNG MAN.

TO MY MOTHER, SUCH SIGHTS WERE JUST LIKE A DREAM.


AND THAT IS WHEN TROUBLE FIRST BEGAN.
THEY WERE HAPPY TOGETHER... FOR MY MOTHER ESPECIALLY, I'M SURE IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS IN A FAIRY TALE.
WHAT?!
DEAR, WE'RE... GOING TO HAVE A BABY!


I HAVE TO RETURN TO TOKYO FOR WORK, BUT THE NANNY IS HERE, SO YOU'LL BE FINE
AS LONG AS YOU'RE RESTING UP HERE IN OUR VILLA, I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL, HEALTHY BABY!
PLEASE DON'T GO!!
I BEG YOU! STAY WITH ME!
MISTRESS, YOU MUSTN'T GET OVER-EXCITED! THINK ABOUT THE BABY!
MY LOVE!!

MY LOVE!!
STAY WITH ME! I'M FRIGHTENED!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE BACK SOON!
YOU'RE JUST GETTING WORKED UP BECAUSE THE BABY'S COMING
WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?
MISTRESS, YOU MUSTN'T BE SO SELFISH!
THE NANNY'S HERE, ISN'T SHE?
MIS-TRESS!!
NO! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
MY LOVE!!
MISTRESS!!

*FX SLAM
MY LOVE...!
*FX VRRMM
ピカッ
*FX THOOM
ピカッ
*FX THOOM

*FX KRAK
ピカッ
MY.. LOVE..
AAAH!!
*FX EEEEK

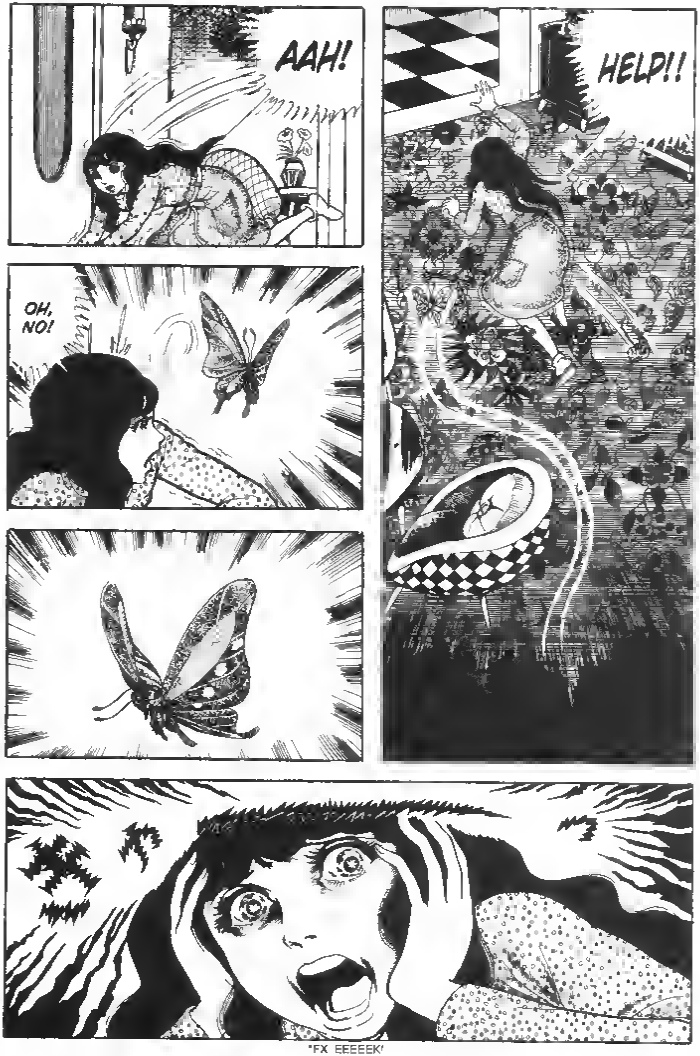
SO SCARED... THE WINDOW... OUTSIDE THE WINDOW... SOMEONE...
WHAT?!
MISTRESS, WHAT HAPPENED?!
MIS-TRESS!!
あぁぁぁっ
*FX AAAH!!
AAH! AAH!
IT'S JUST YOUR NERVES!
YOUR MIND'S PLAYING TRICKS! THERE'S NO ONE!
MIS-TRESS!!
GAVE BIRTH TO ME.
AND THAT NIGHT, SHE GAVE BIRTH.
おぎゃー!
*FX WAAA

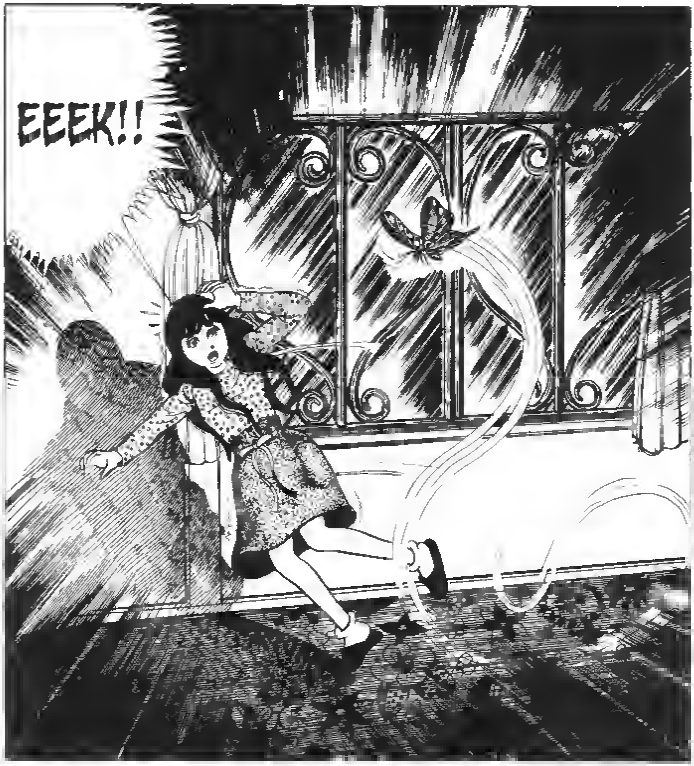
THEY SAY THAT AFTERWARDS, MY MOTHER SEEMED TO BE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF SOMETHING...
HAS IT HAPPENED ?!
THEY'RE BOTH IN GOOD HEALTH!
IT'S A BABY GIRL!
FX WAA
...AND SO SHE NEVER LEFT MY SIDE FOR AN INSTANT.
AND SO FINALLY I OPENED MY EYES, AND EVENTUALLY I WAS CRAWLING ABOUT. THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.
AFTERWARDS, WE STAYED AT THE VILLA TO ENSURE MY GOOD HEALTH. FOR SOME REASON, MOTHER DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO TOKYO.
BUT, FEELING ELATED BY THE SUCCESSFUL BIRTH, AS SHE WATCHED ME MY MOTHER AT LAST FELT NO FEAR, AND AN EASY SMILE CAME ACROSS HER FACE.

*FX AIEEE!!
OH--
MIS-
TRESS!!

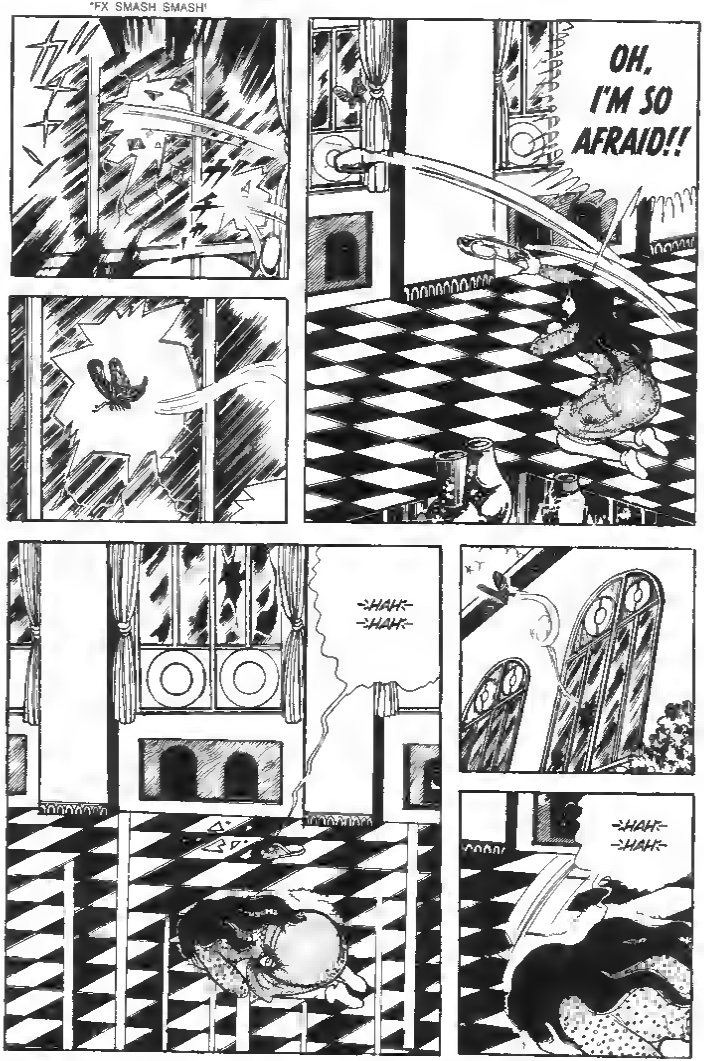
あーん
あーん
*FX WAA WAA
WHILE MOTHER WAS TAKING A NAP, I HAD WADDLED OUT TO THE VERANDA WHEN SHE REALIZED AND CAME TO SAVE ME, SHE SOMEHOW CRASHED THROUGH THE RAIL
THAT'S HOW MY MOTHER DIED. WITH SO LITTLE HAPPINESS AND SUCH A SHORT LIFETIME...
MISTRESS!!
I SUPPOSE THAT'S ONLY NATURAL. I WAS JUST A NEWBORN BABY. OF COURSE I WOULD HAVE NO MEMORY OF SUCH THINGS.
BUT I REMEMBER NOTHING OF THE INCIDENT. I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF EVEN MY MOTHER'S FACE.
NANNY SAID THAT YOU COULD TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER, STILL PROTECTING ME IN HER ARMS AFTER SHE'D FALLEN, THAT SHE LOVED ME DEEPLY.
WHEN I LEARNED HOW SHE'D DIED, IT PAINED ME... I FELT I WAS RESPONSIBLE..

AAH!!
I FEARED BUTTER-FLIES!
COMPARED TO MY MOTHER'S LIFE, MY UPBRING-ING WAS CAREFREE AND EASY. EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...
AND SO, IN TIME I GREW UNTIL I WAS ALMOST THE AGE MY YOUNG MOTHER WAS WHEN SHE MARRIED.
AAH!!
EEEK!!
FX SLAM
A BUTTER-FLY!!
EEEK!!


AAH!
HELP!!
OH, NO!
*FX EEEEEK!



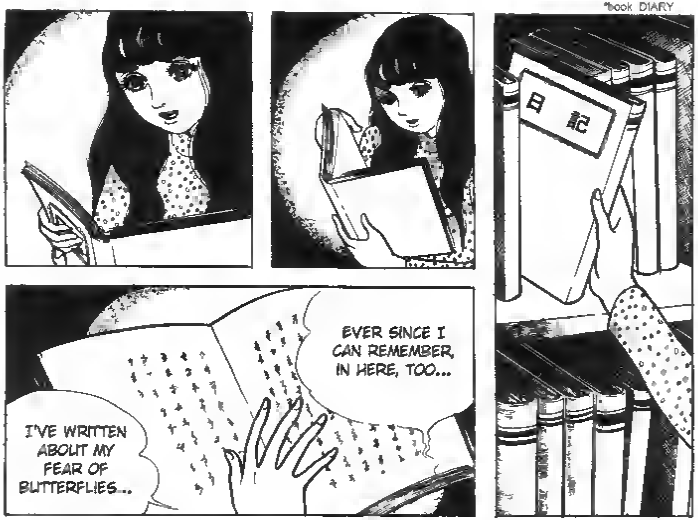
FX EEEK!!


*FX SMASH SMASH!
OH, I'M SO AFRAID!!
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-

YOUNG MISS!
WH- WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YOUNG MISS!
IT WAS A BUTTER- FLY..
A BUTTERFLY..
-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-
THERE'S NO BUTTERFLY HERE NOW! DID IT ALREADY ESCAPE?
WHAT..?! OH, NOT AGAIN?!
..AND ..AND THEN
IT SUDDENLY CAME FLYING IN THROUGH THE WINDOW!
DON'T WORRY! IT'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN!
OHH, IT WAS SO TERRIFY- ING..!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU, WHEN YOU SAY "FRIGHTEN," HOW DO YOU MEAN? BUTTERFLIES DON'T BITE!
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHY... THEY JUST FRIGHTEN ME!
...WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF LOVELY BUTTER-FLIES?
BUT, YOUNG MISS, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER.
I CAN'T REALLY EXPRESS IN WORDS WHY THEY SCARE ME SO, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... THEY DO!
I KNOW THAT! BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP ME BEING AFRAID!
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THEM!
NOW, PLEASE STOP TALKING ABOUT BUTTERFLIES!
ARE YOU FEELING SICK?!
YOUNG MISS! WHAT'S WRONG?!
AAH!

*FX SLAM
BUT...WHY AM I SO SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES ...?
AND SO MUCH SO... ONLY ME ..
OH! HOW AWFUL! MY HEART'S THUMPING


日記
EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, IN HERE, TOO...
I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT MY FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES...

あたしはちょうが
こわい
こなえちゃんも
はるみちゃんも
ちょうがへいきだけど
あたしはちょうが
こわい
みんなはどうして
ちょうがこわくないの
かしら
diary Butterflies frighten me They don't bother the other girls like Harumi and Sanae Only I'm afraid of them
Why aren't they scared of butterflies?

*book DIARY
IN THIS ONE TOO.
WHY...?
*FX FUT
"THE NORTH WIND THAT PIERCES MY SKIN..."
"I LOVE THE BITING COLD OF WINTER..."
"WHEN I SEE THE DYING LEAVES AND BRANCHES FALL FROM THE TREES, A BRIGHT BLUE SKY OPENS UP IN MY HEART..."
"WHEN I SEE THE MAD DANCE OF SWIRLING DUST, MY HEART FINDS PEACE."

"NO ONE KNOWS I'M REALLY THIS SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES... NOT EVEN MY FATHER."
"BUT THAT'S NO SURPRISE-- WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT?"
"...BECAUSE I KNOW THE BUTTERFLIES ARE GONE."
"BUT WHEN SPRING COMES, AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY MOTHER'S DEATH, A THICK BLACK CLOUD CREEPS INTO MY HEART..."
AND THAT YEAR, THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY MOTHER'S DEATH CAME AGAIN...
YOUR FATHER WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU.
YOUNG MISS.. I'M SO SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
*FX NOK NOK

COME IN!
WELL, THEN! ARE YOU ALL SET TO GO?
YES... AS SOON AS I CHANGE MY CLOTHES...
NOW, GO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER SHE'S NOT FEELING WELL AND WON'T BE JOINING US.
OKAY.
THEN IT'S TIME TO GO VISIT YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE, OKAY?
YES, FATHER.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SO PALE!
IT'S NOTHING, FATHER.

*FX. VRRMMM
PLEASE, BE SURE TO PAY RESPECTS ON MY BEHALF AS WELL.
IT-- IT'S ONLY...
THAT-- THAT'S NOT TRUE!
HE ALWAYS VISITS ON THIS DAY...
EVEN NOW, FATHER STILL LOVES MOTHER.
WHAT?!
MEGUMI, PERHAPS REALLY YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO VISIT THE GRAVE AT ALL...?

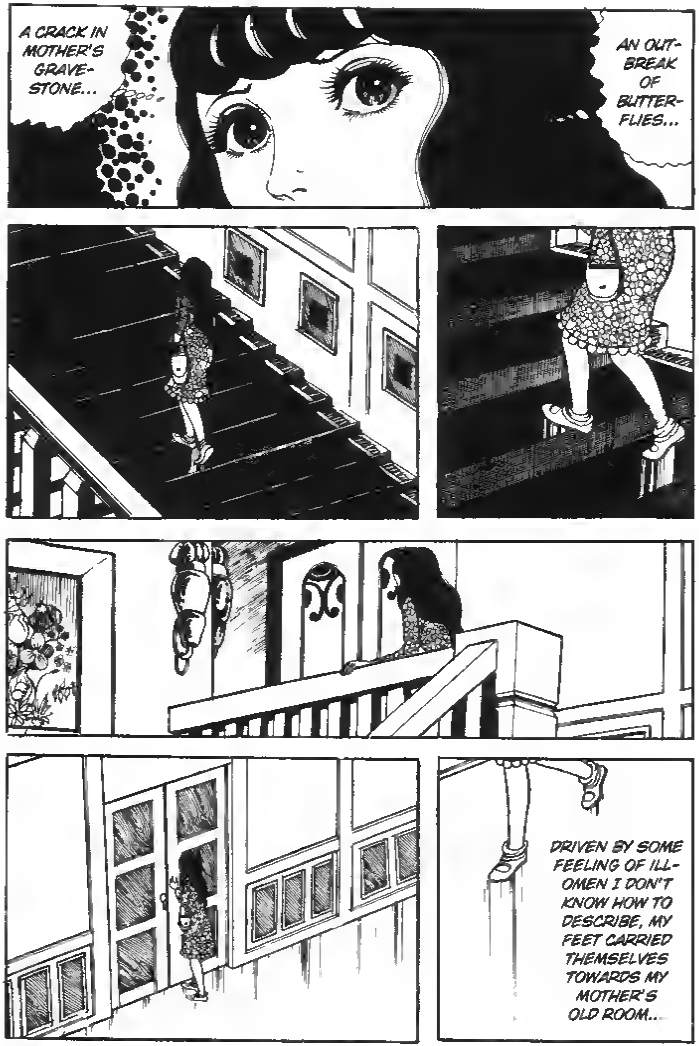
..BUT WHAT I WONDER..
ONLY.. BUT...
..WAS MY FAULT.
MOTHER'S DEATH. .
NO, IT MUST BE NOTHING.
DON'T LET THERE BE ANY BUTTERFLIES AS LONG AS WE'RE VISITING...!
OH, PLEASE, I HOPE THERE ARE NO BUTTERFLIES AT THE GRAVE...!
THAT TIME OF YEAR WAS PEAK SEASON FOR BUTTERFLIES AROUND THE VILLA WHERE MY MOTHER RESTED. THE CLOSER WE GOT, THE MORE I WAS TORMENTED.
I PRAYED DESPERATELY IN MY HEART THAT I WOULDN'T SEE ANY BUTTER-FLIES.

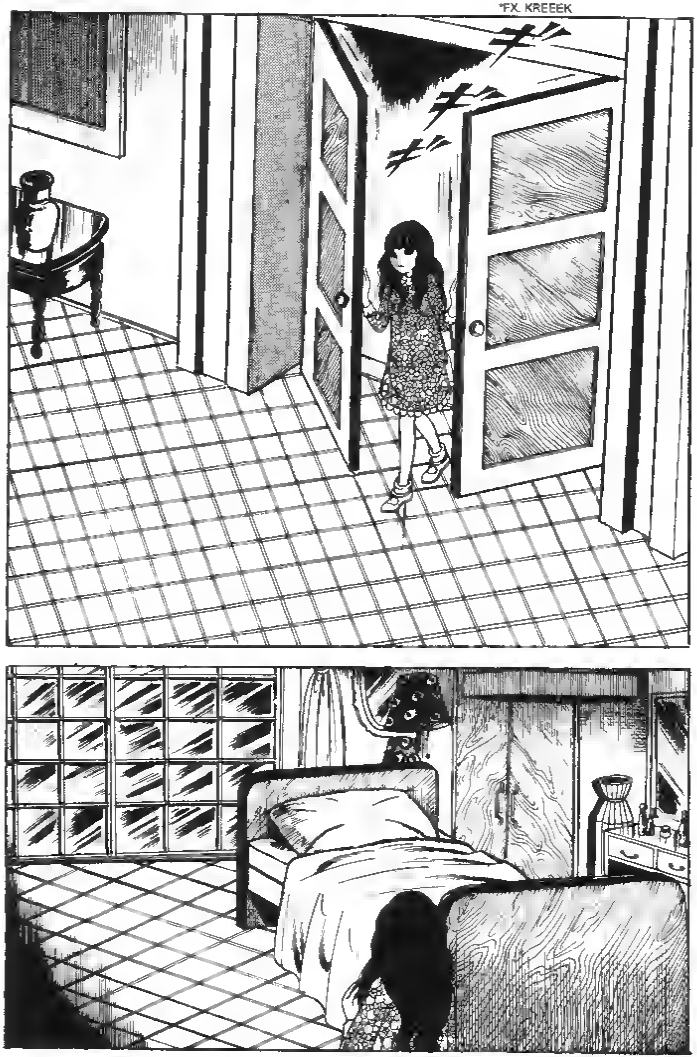
*FX. SKREE
...SECOND BECAUSE OF BUTTER-FLIES.
FIRST BECAUSE OF MOTHER..
EVERY YEAR YOU LOOK MORE LIKE YOUR MOTHER!
MY WORD! YOUNG MISS, YOU'RE GETTING PRETTIER AND PRETTIER!
NANNY! HOW ARE YOU?
THE BUTTERFLY OUTBREAK HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY BAD!
OH! EXCEPT THAT BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER THIS YEAR AND THE VEGETATION, THE INSECTS ARE BREEDING OUT OF CONTROL! IT'S QUITE THE NUISANCE.
NO, NO, NOTHING IN PAR-TICULAR.
HOW ARE THINGS LOOKING AFTER THE VILLA... ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?
HUH?!

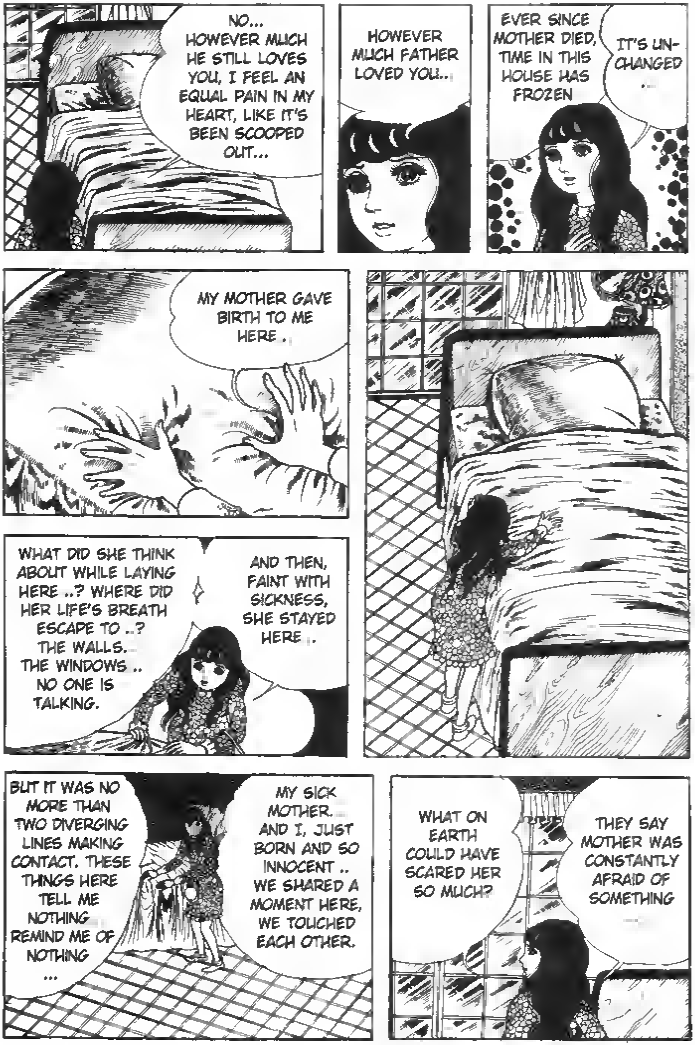
SOMETHING STRANGE..?
SOME-THING QUITE STRANGE...
OH, AND THERE IS ONE OTHER THING THAT'S HAPPENED...
YESTERDAY, THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL...
BUT NOW THERE'S A CRACK IN YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVESTONE..!
WHAT--?!

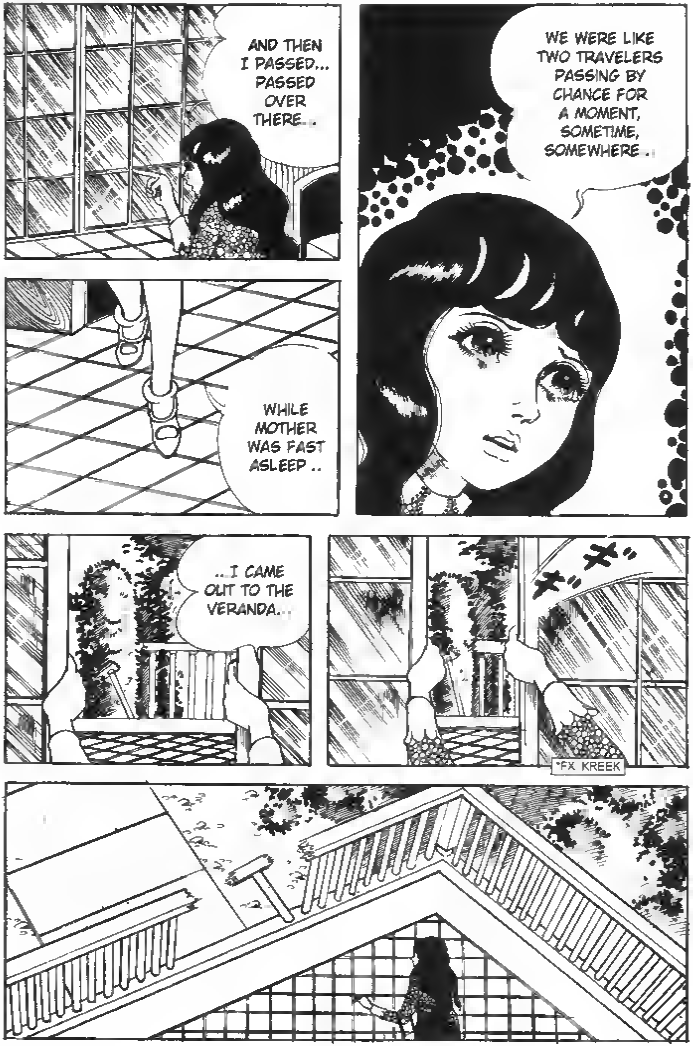
A CRACK IN HER GRAVESTONE.. ?! WHAT ON EARTH COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!
I DON'T KNOW. .! I NOTICED IT THIS MORNING WHEN I WENT TO CLEAN IT, BUT YESTERDAY IT WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL!
FX KA KAW

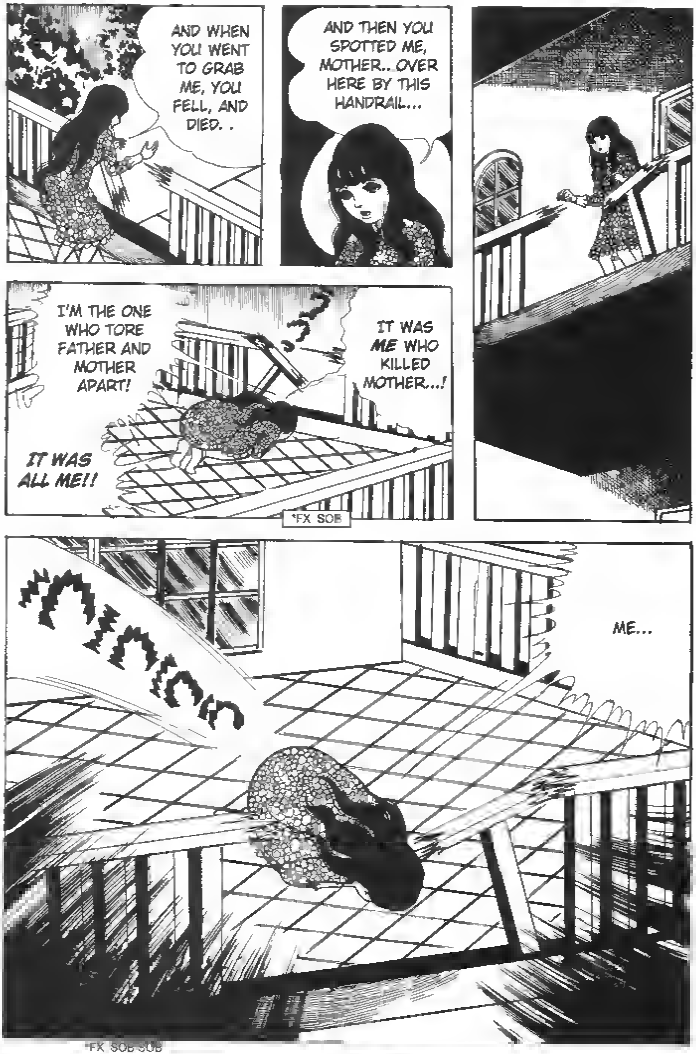
THE PATH TO THE GRAVE WILL BE TOO DANGEROUS NOW, AND IT'S QUITE FAR. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO START AGAIN FRESH TOMORROW —
ANYWAY, COME! COME TO YOUR ROOMS AND REST. YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE DRIVE UP.
EVENING SET'S IN SO QUICKLY IN THE MOUNTAINS, DOESN'T IT? AS SOON AS THE SUN STARTS TO SET, NIGHT SEEMS TO COME IN AT A GALLOP!
O-OKAY.
MM... I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CRACK IN THE GRAVESTONE, SO WE'LL SET OUT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING TO SEE YOUR MOTHER, MEGUMI
NOW! NOW! LET ME PUT ON SOME TEA FOR YOU!

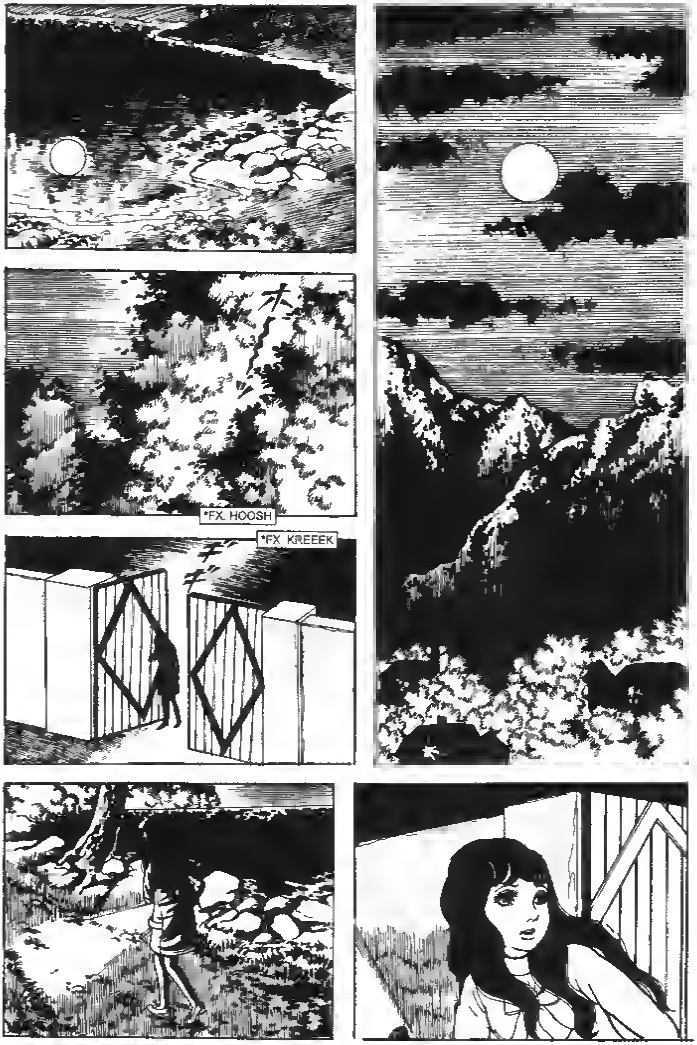

A CRACK IN MOTHER'S GRAVE-STONE...
AN OUT-BREAK OF BUTTER-FLIES...
DRIVEN BY SOME FEELING OF ILL-OMEN I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE, MY FEET CARRIED THEMSELVES TOWARDS MY MOTHER'S OLD ROOM...

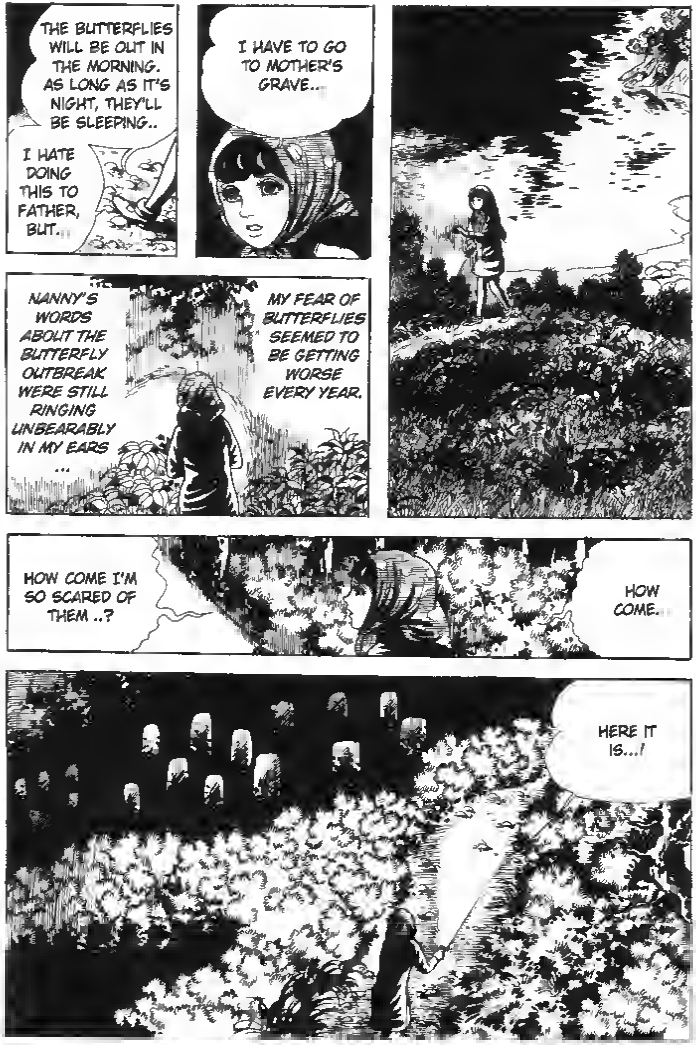

*FX. KREEEK

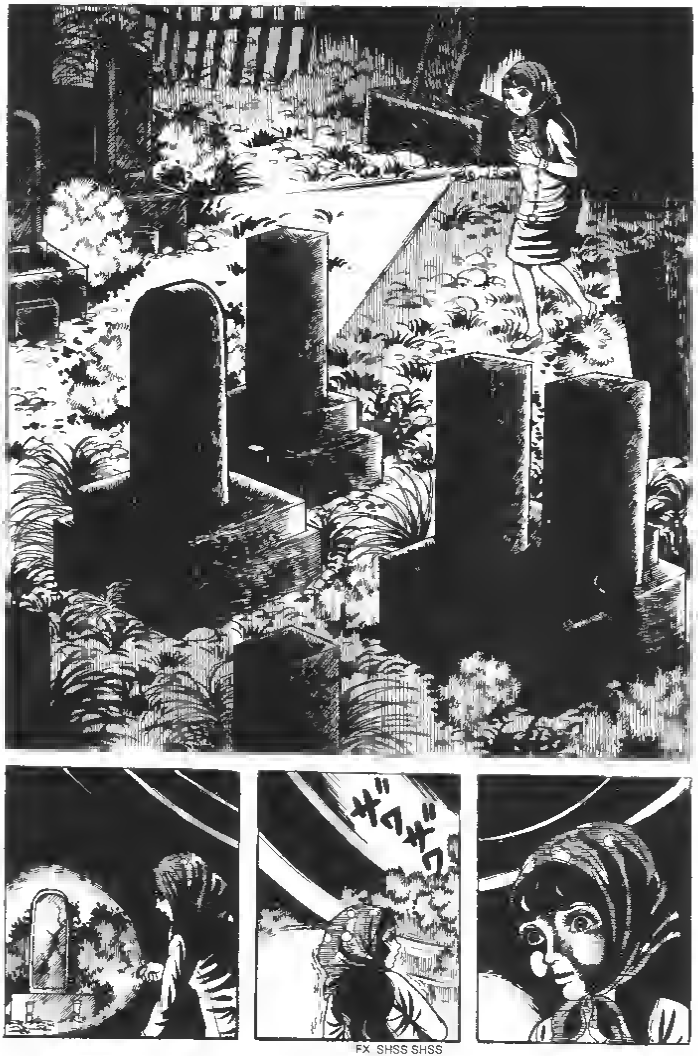

NO... HOWEVER MUCH HE STILL LOVES YOU, I FEEL AN EQUAL PAIN IN MY HEART, LIKE IT'S BEEN SCOOPED OUT...
HOWEVER MUCH FATHER LOVED YOU...
EVER SINCE MOTHER DIED, TIME IN THIS HOUSE HAS FROZEN
IT'S UNCHANGED
MY MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO ME HERE.
WHAT DID SHE THINK ABOUT WHILE LAYING HERE ..? WHERE DID HER LIFE'S BREATH ESCAPE TO ..? THE WALLS.. THE WINDOWS .. NO ONE IS TALKING.
AND THEN, FAINT WITH SICKNESS, SHE STAYED HERE.
BUT IT WAS NO MORE THAN TWO DIVERGING LINES MAKING CONTACT. THESE THINGS HERE TELL ME NOTHING REMIND ME OF NOTHING ...
MY SICK MOTHER... AND I, JUST BORN AND SO INNOCENT .. WE SHARED A MOMENT HERE, WE TOUCHED EACH OTHER.
WHAT ON EARTH COULD HAVE SCARED HER SO MUCH?
THEY SAY MOTHER WAS CONSTANTLY AFRAID OF SOMETHING


AND THEN I PASSED... PASSED OVER THERE..
WE WERE LIKE TWO TRAVELERS PASSING BY CHANCE FOR A MOMENT, SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE..
WHILE MOTHER WAS FAST ASLEEP ..
..I CAME OUT TO THE VERANDA...
*FX KREEK

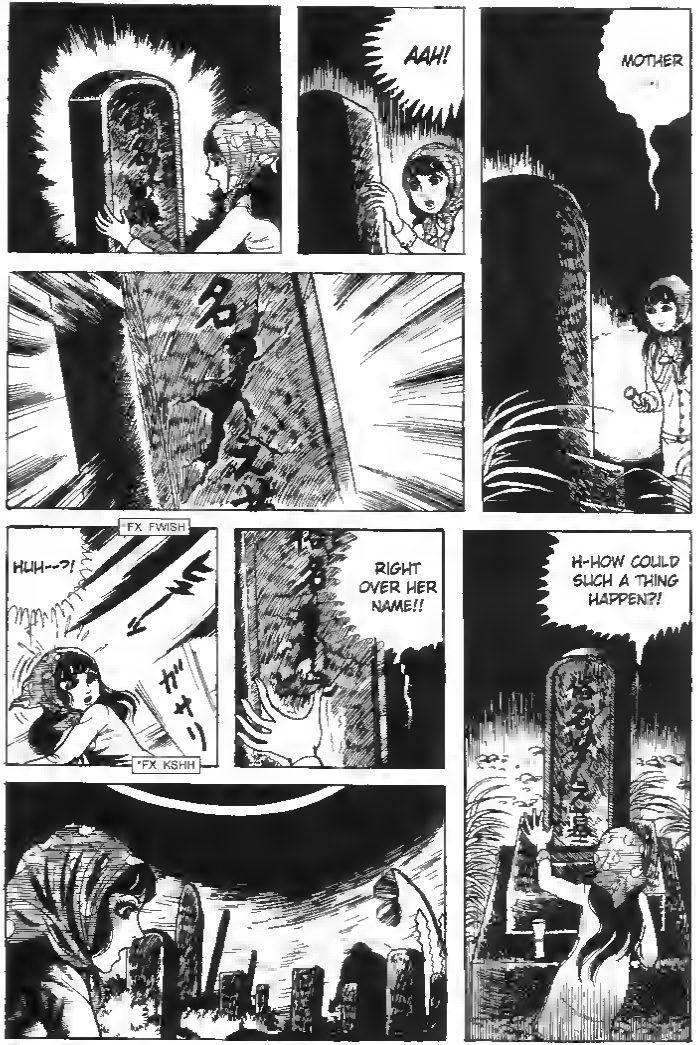

AND WHEN YOU WENT TO GRAB ME, YOU FELL, AND DIED. .
AND THEN YOU SPOTTED ME, MOTHER.. OVER HERE BY THIS HANDRAIL...
I'M THE ONE WHO TORE FATHER AND MOTHER APART!
IT WAS ALL ME!!
IT WAS ME WHO KILLED MOTHER...!
*FX SOB
ME...
*FX SOB-SOB


*FX HOOSH
*FX KREEEK


THE BUTTERFLIES WILL BE OUT IN THE MORNING. AS LONG AS IT'S NIGHT, THEY'LL BE SLEEPING..
I HATE DOING THIS TO FATHER, BUT...
I HAVE TO GO TO MOTHER'S GRAVE...
NANNY'S WORDS ABOUT THE BUTTERFLY OUTBREAK WERE STILL RINGING UNBEARABLY IN MY EARS ...
MY FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES SEEMED TO BE GETTING WORSE EVERY YEAR.
HOW COME I'M SO SCARED OF THEM ..?
HOW COME...
HERE IT IS...!



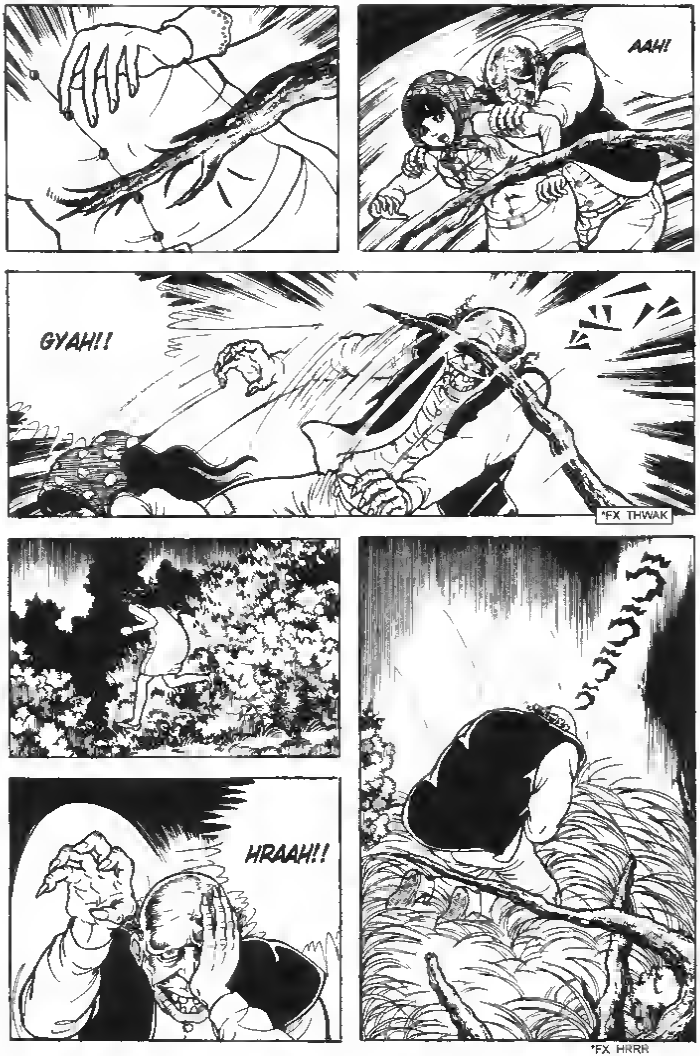
FX SHSS SHSS

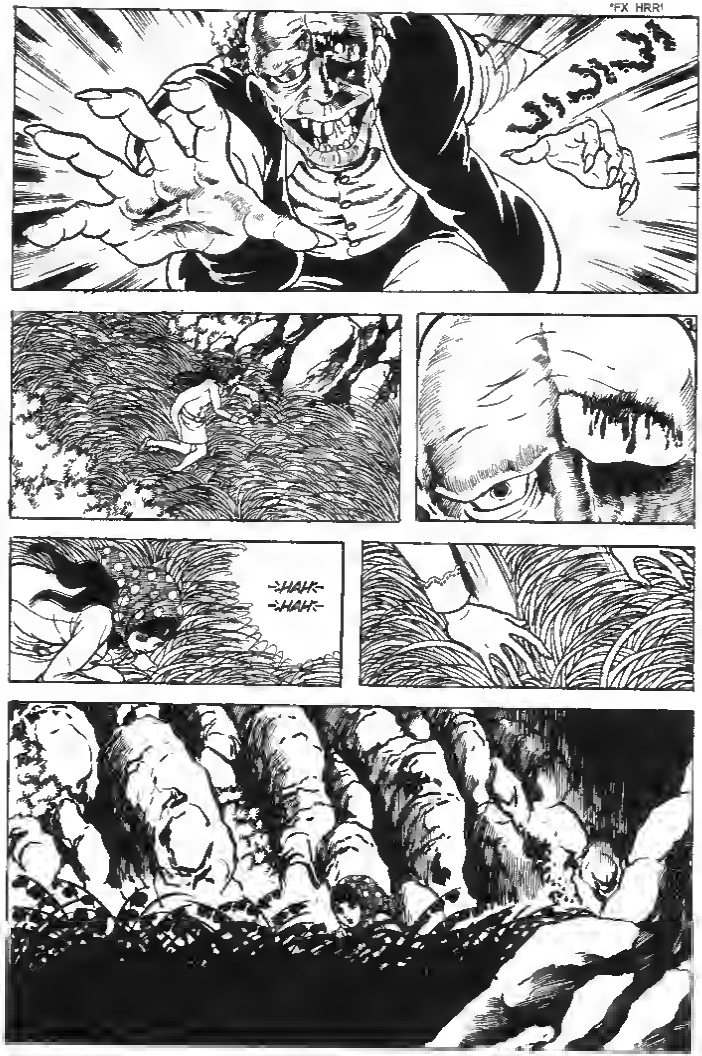

AAH!
MOTHER
FX: FWISH
HUH--?!
FX: KSHH
RIGHT OVER HER NAME!!
H-HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN?!

WH-WHO'S THERE?!
WHO'S THERE?!
*FX KSHHK
ザザーッ
EEEEK!

*FX CHK
SOME-BODY HELP!!
EEEK!!
AAAH!!
SUDDENLY I REALIZED I WAS MISTAKENLY RUNNING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THE VILLA!
AAAH!!

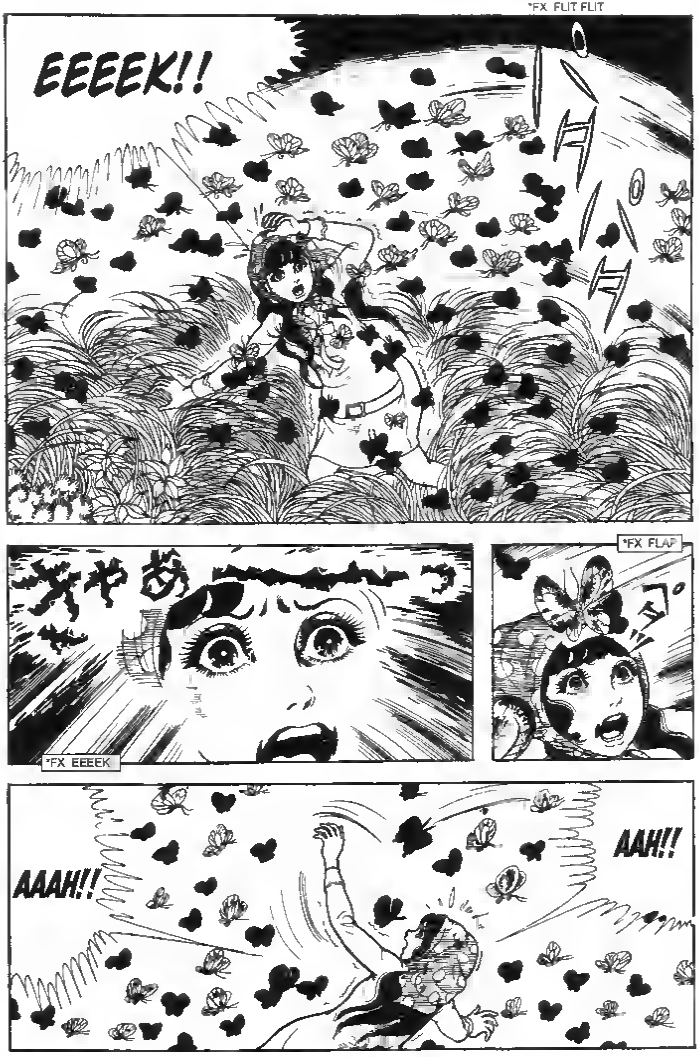
EEEEK!!
SOMEONE, SAVE ME!!
SOMEONE!!


AAA!
AAH!
GYAH!!
*FX THWAK
HRAAH!!
*FX HRRR


*FX HRR!
-HAH-
-HAH-

SO MANY FLOWERS!!

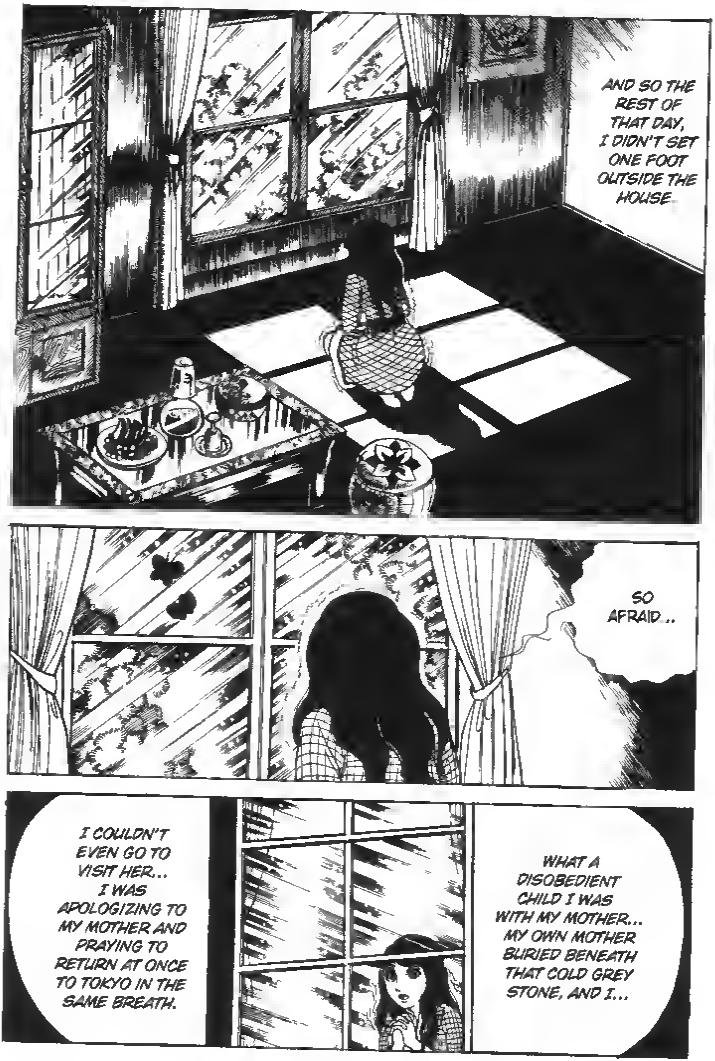
*FX. FLIT FLIT FLIT
AIEEE!!

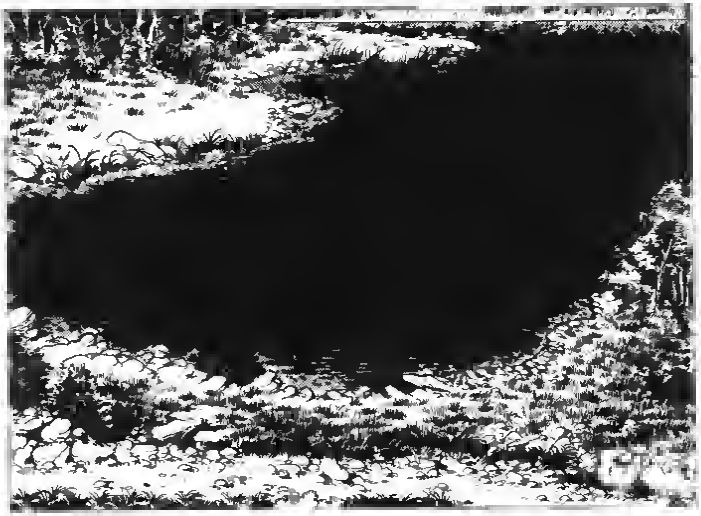

*FX FLIT FLIT
EEEEK!!
*FX EEEEK
*FX FLAP
AAAH!!
AAH!!

EEEEK!!
AAH!!
EEEK!!
*FX. FLIT FLIT

WHA--?!
AAH!!
EEEEK!!
MEGUMI!!
YOUNG MISS!!
IT SEEMS HE SAW YOU BY THE GRAVE AND GREW SUSPICIOUS, BUT WHEN HE DREW NEAR YOU, YOU RAN OFF AND HE CHASED AFTER YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! THIS IS THE GROUNDSKEEPER, TAKICHI. HE'S A MUTE.

I'M SURE IT MUST'VE BEEN THE DOING OF SOME MISCHIEVOUS VILLAGERS!
AT ANY RATE, YESTERDAY EVENING TAKICHI THOUGHT WHOEVER VANDALIZED THE GRAVESTONE MUST HAVE COME BACK, AND HE WAS QUITE ANGRY ABOUT IT!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU *THINKING* GOING OUT TO VISIT THE GRAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT-- AND WITHOUT *TELLING* ME?!
I'M SORRY! I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO VISIT THE GRAVE DURING THE DAY BECAUSE OF THE BUTTERFLIES, SO...
THEY WERE SCARY! THE BUTTERFLIES--- *SO SCARY!!*
FATHER!!
HNN..
URR..
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE JUST CRYING OUT IN YOUR SLEEP ABOUT THE "SCARY BUTTERFLIES"!
APPARENTLY, YOU WERE FOUND PASSED OUT DEEP IN THE VALLEY... THAT AREA IS THICK WITH BUTTERFLIES!


AND SO THE REST OF THAT DAY, I DIDN'T SET ONE FOOT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.
SO AFRAID..
I COULDN'T EVEN GO TO VISIT HER... I WAS APOLOGIZING TO MY MOTHER AND PRAYING TO RETURN AT ONCE TO TOKYO IN THE SAME BREATH.
WHAT A DISOBEDIENT CHILD I WAS WITH MY MOTHER... MY OWN MOTHER BURIED BENEATH THAT COLD GREY STONE, AND I...



THAT DAMAGE TO MOTHER'S GRAVE WAS DONE DELIBERATELY, WASN'T IT?

I WOULD NEVER FORGET THE SHOCK OF ALL THOSE BUTTERFLIES... AND FROM THAT MOMENT, MY FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES BEGAN TO GROW INTO SOMETHING EVEN WORSE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT... AND NO ONE ELSE CAN EITHER...
WHY AM I SO AFRAID OF BUTTERFLIES...? WHY...?
BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL MUCH LATER THAT I FINALLY REALIZED THIS.
AT THAT MOMENT, SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING IN MY MIND...IN MY VERY BODY...THAT EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
EEEEK!!

FATHER!! THERE'S A BUTTERFLY ON YOUR HAND!!
STOP!! STOP THE CAR!!
HUH?!

AIEEEE!!
WHAT--?!
A BLACK BUTTERFLY ON YOUR HAND!! HURRY! HURRY!! GET RID OF IT!!

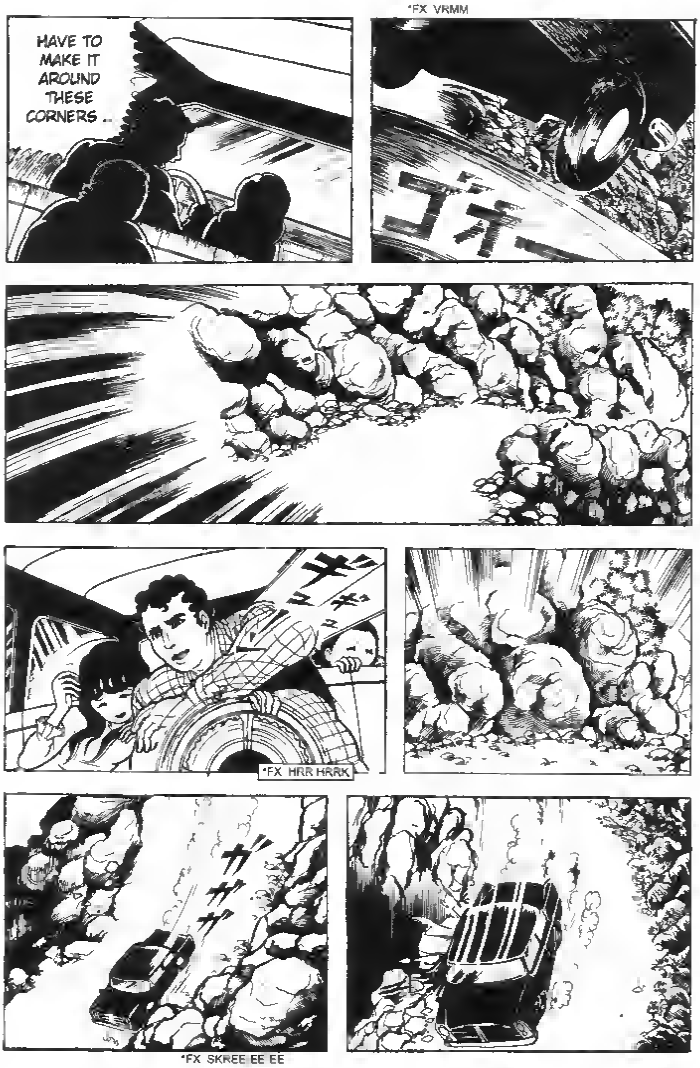
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING THERE!
AIEEE!!
EEEK!
STOP THE CAR!!
STOP!!
I'M SO SCARED!!
*FX SHHK

MEGUMI, LOOK OUT!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOUNG MISS!
*FX SHRRK
AAH!!

*FX. SHUNK SHUNK
WHA--?!
!!
THE BRAKES AREN'T WORKING!!
*FX. VRNN

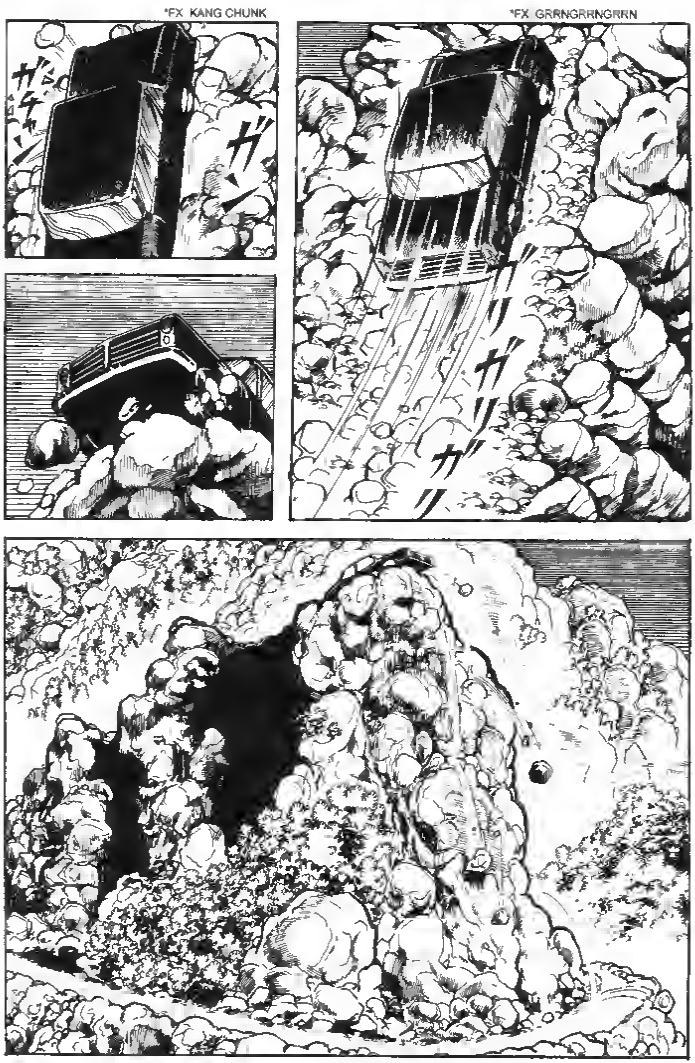
*FX VRMM

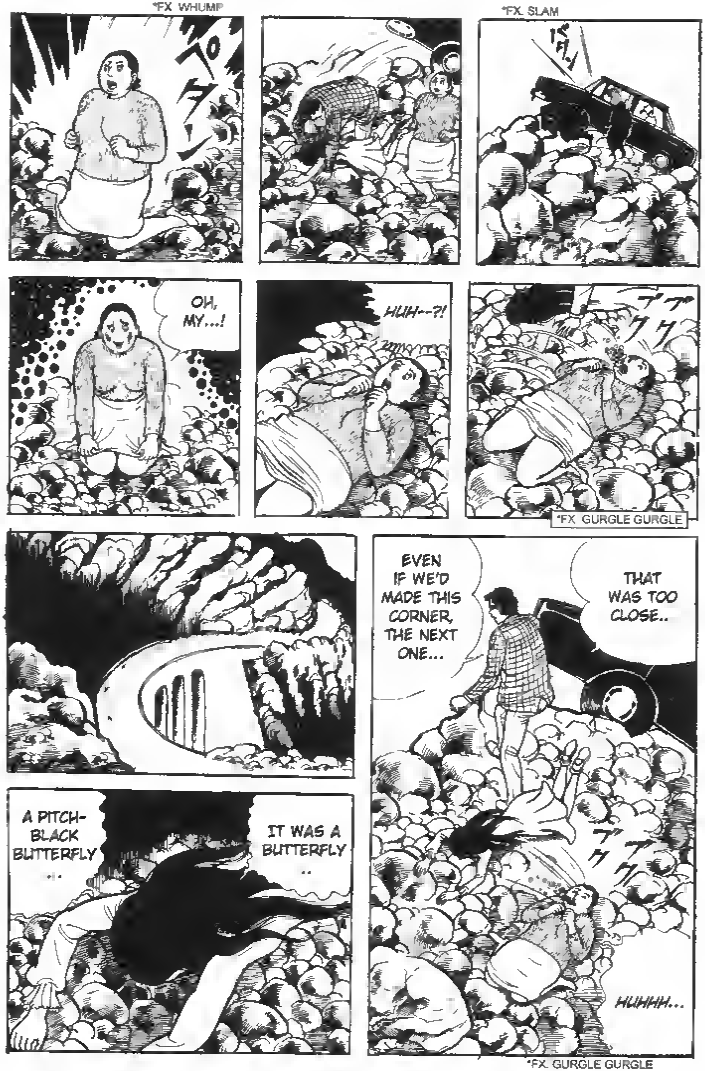
*FX SHUNK SHUNK


HAVE TO MAKE IT AROUND THESE CORNERS ..
*FX VRMM
ゴォー
*FX HRR HRRK
*FX SKREE EE EE

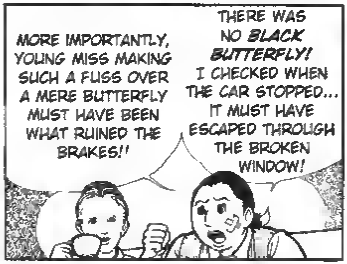
AAAAH!!
*FX VRRRR

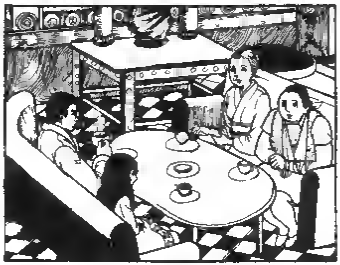
THAT TURN UP AHEAD--!!
DANGER
きけん
DANGER
きけん


*FX KANG CHUNK
ガシャン
ガン
*FX GRRNGRRNGRRN
ガリガリガリ


*FX. WHUMP
*FX. SLAM
OH, MY...!
HUH--?!
*FX. GURGLE GURGLE
EVEN IF WE'D MADE THIS CORNER, THE NEXT ONE...
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE..
HUHHH...
*FX. GURGLE GURGLE
A PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY
IT WAS A BUTTERFLY

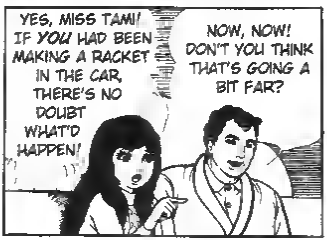
AND EVENTUALLY I CALMED BACK DOWN AND WAS MY OLD SELF AGAIN. I FELT GLAD TO BE BACK IN TOKYO, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DISRESPECTFUL TO MY MOTHER.
AND SO WE FINALLY MADE IT BACK TO TOKYO.

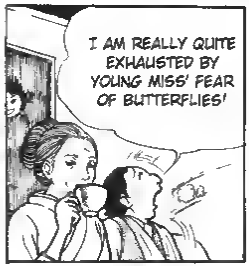

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUNG MISS MAKING SUCH A FUSS OVER A MERE BUTTERFLY MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT RUINED THE BRAKES!!
THERE WAS NO BLACK BUTTERFLY! I CHECKED WHEN THE CAR STOPPED... IT MUST HAVE ESCAPED THROUGH THE BROKEN WINDOW!



OKAY, OKAY! NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SINCE YOU WERE IN THE CAR, MISS TAMI, YOU PROBABLY HELPED KEEP OUR SPEED DOWN!

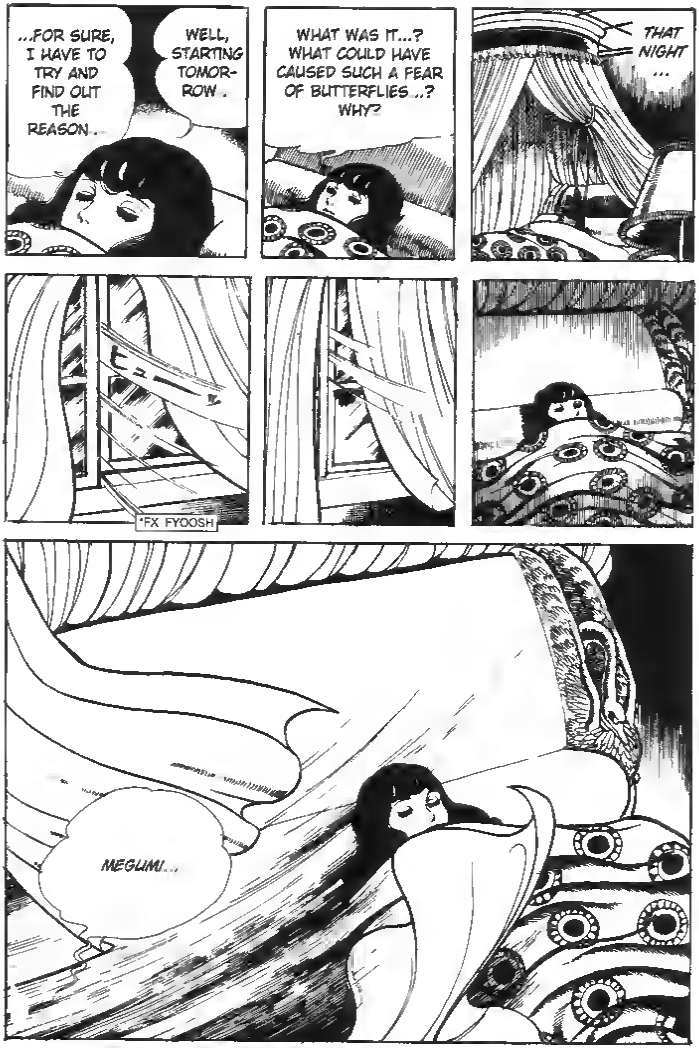
ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY THAT I'M FAT?!

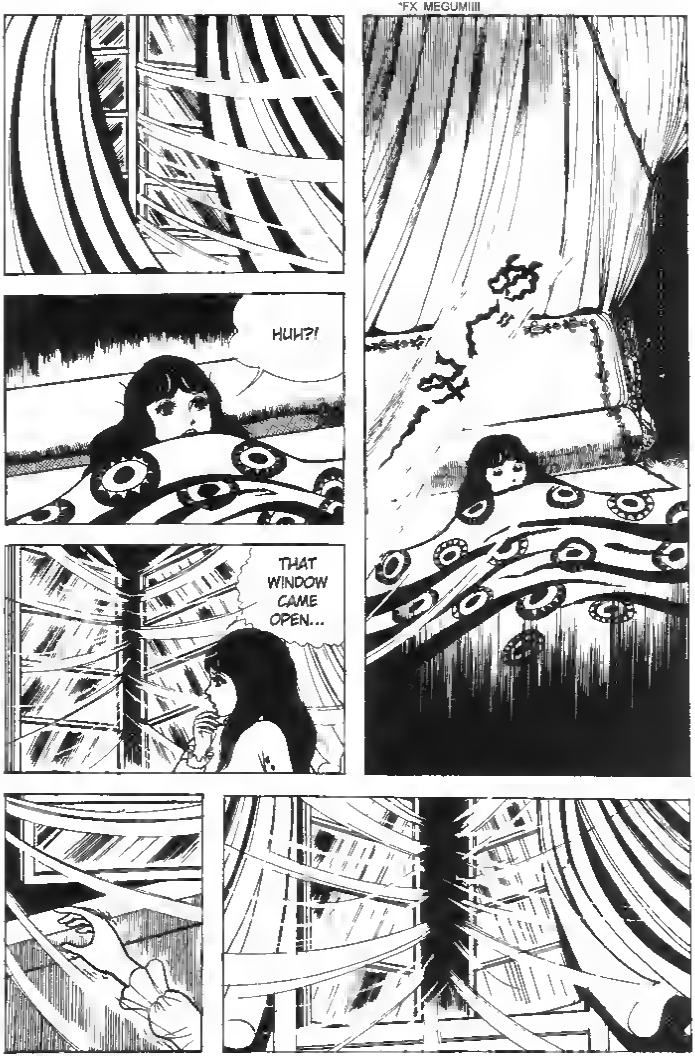

YES, MISS TAMI! IF YOU HAD BEEN MAKING A RACKET IN THE CAR, THERE'S NO DOUBT WHAT'D HAPPEN!
NOW, NOW! DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S GOING A BIT FAR?


I AM REALLY QUITE EXHAUSTED BY YOUNG MISS' FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES!

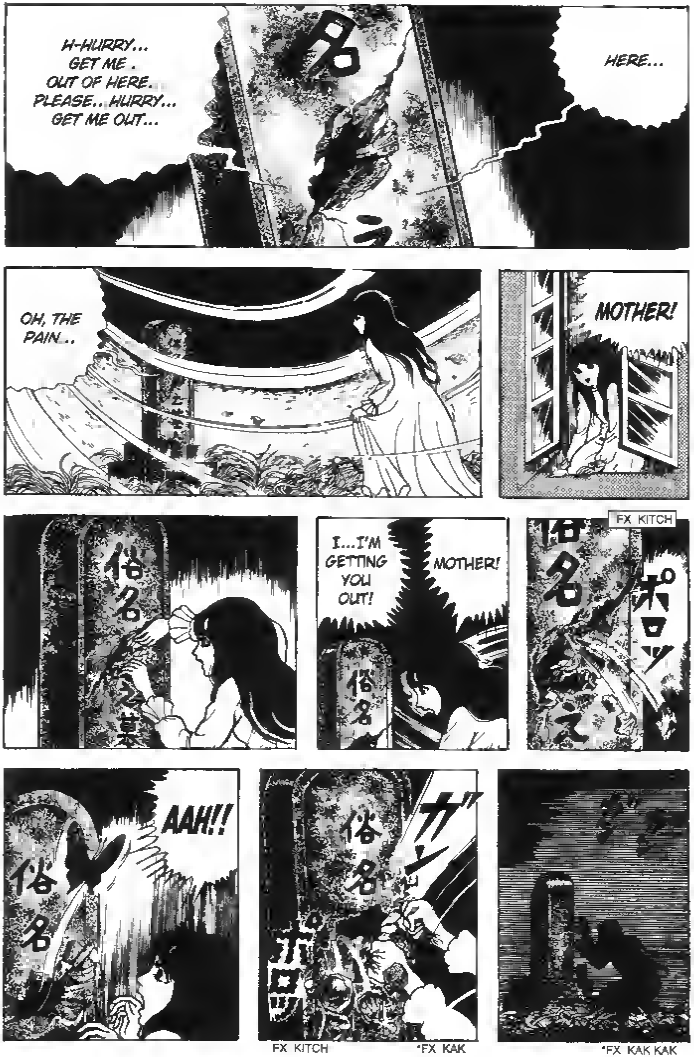
I'M GOING TO BED!
GOOD NIGHT!

MASTER! YOU, TOO?!

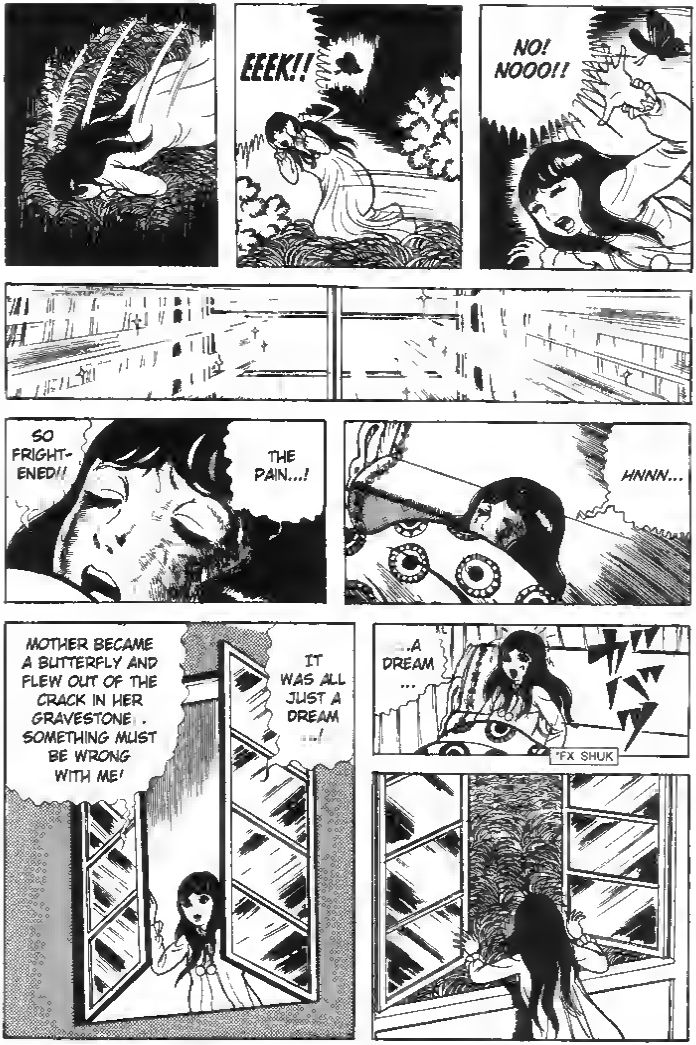

...FOR SURE, I HAVE TO TRY AND FIND OUT THE REASON..
WELL, STARTING TOMOR-ROW.
WHAT WAS IT...? WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH A FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES..? WHY?
THAT NIGHT ...
*FX FYOOSH
MEGUMI...


*FX MEGUMI!!!!
HUH?!
THAT WINDOW CAME OPEN...

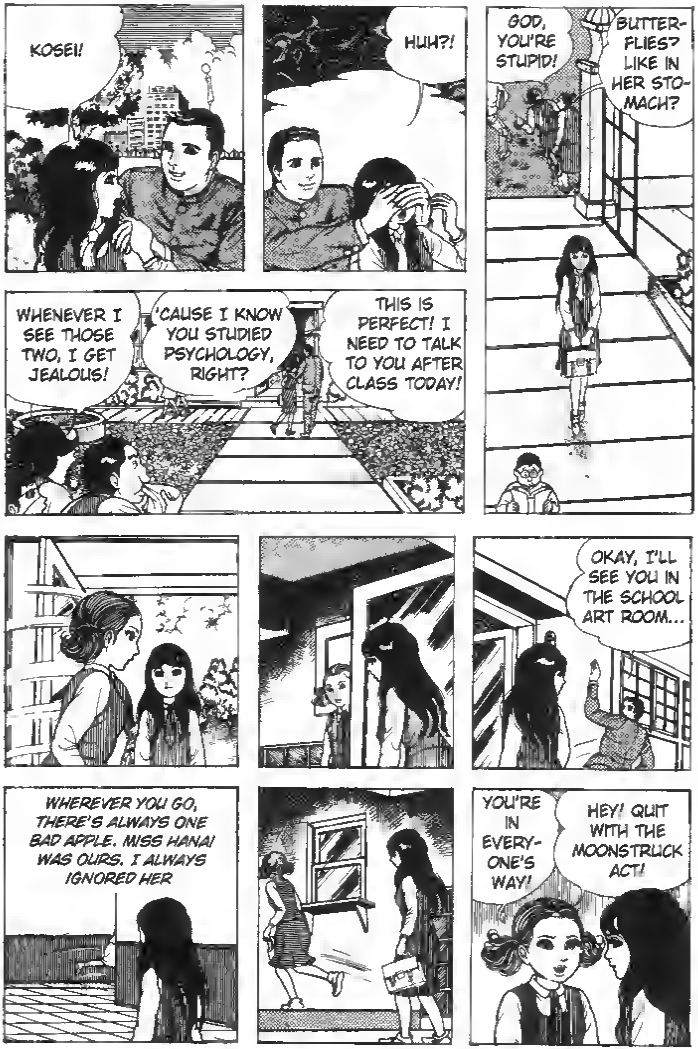
AAH!!
MEGUMI
MOTHER'S GRAVE!! HOW DID IT END UP OUT HERE?!


H-HURRY... GET ME . OUT OF HERE. PLEASE... HURRY... GET ME OUT...
HERE...
OH, THE PAIN...
MOTHER!
I...I'M GETTING YOU OUT!
MOTHER!
FX KITCH
AAH!!
FX KITCH
*FX KAK
*FX KAK KAK

*FX. HOHOHOHOHO
ほほほほほ
AAH!!
*FX. HOHOHOHOHO
ほほほほほ
EEEK!!
FX AIEEE
MEGUMI, IT'S ME. YOUR DEAR MOTHER...! MOTHER HAS BEEN REBORN AS A BUTTERFLY ..
HOHOHO! AT LAST I AM FREE!
AAH!!
NOW I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!

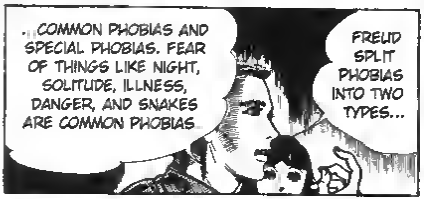

EEEK!!
NO! NOOO!!
SO FRIGHT-ENED!!
THE PAIN...!
HNNN...
MOTHER BECAME A BUTTERFLY AND FLEW OUT OF THE CRACK IN HER GRAVESTONE. . SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH ME!
IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM ...!
...A DREAM ...
*FX SHUK

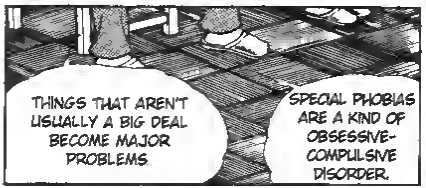
THAT DAY I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD TELL MY BOYFRIEND, KOSEI, ABOUT EVERYTHING.
*Sign PACHINKO
HUH! WELL...SHE'S NOT AS PERFECT AS YOU THINK! EVEN SHE'S GOT A WEIRD PROBLEM!
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
L-LOOK! IT'S OKA-NOUE!
IT'S YOU!
IT'S ALL OVER YOUR FACE..
OOPS!
WEIRD PROBLEM? WHAT? IS SHE A BED-WETTER LIKE--
...SHE'S SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES.
I HEARD OKANOUE'S PROBLEM IS..
HOLD YOUR HEAD UP!
AH, DON'T SWEAT IT! FORGET ABOUT IT!


KOSEI!
HUH?!
GOD, YOU'RE STUPID!
BUTTER-FLIES? LIKE IN HER STO-MACH?
WHENEVER I SEE THOSE TWO, I GET JEALOUS!
'CAUSE I KNOW YOU STUDIED PSYCHOLOGY, RIGHT?
THIS IS PERFECT! I NEED TO TALK TO YOU AFTER CLASS TODAY!
OKAY, I'LL SEE YOU IN THE SCHOOL ART ROOM...
WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE'S ALWAYS ONE BAD APPLE. MISS HANA! WAS OURS. I ALWAYS IGNORED HER
YOU'RE IN EVERY-ONE'S WAY!
HEY! QUIT WITH THE MOONSTRUCK ACT!

THEY SAY THAT THE REASON WHY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THINGS LIKE DARKNESS, CAVES, AND INSECTS IS THAT WE STILL HAVE MEMORIES LEFT FROM LONG AGO WHEN THOSE THINGS WERE ACTUALLY DANGEROUS TO US.

HMM. I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE THAT SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES.
...AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO CURE IT! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.


...COMMON PHOBIAS AND SPECIAL PHOBIAS. FEAR OF THINGS LIKE NIGHT, SOLITUDE, ILLNESS, DANGER, AND SNAKES ARE COMMON PHOBIAS.
FREUD SPLIT PHOBIAS INTO TWO TYPES...


THINGS THAT AREN'T USUALLY A BIG DEAL BECOME MAJOR PROBLEMS.
SPECIAL PHOBIAS ARE A KIND OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER.

IT'S POSSIBLE YOU SOMEHOW FORCED YOURSELF TO BECOME AFRAID OF THEM.

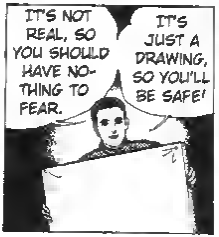
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT!
BUT WHY A FEAR OF BUTTER-FLIES...?

THE LIST GOES ON AND ON.
AGORAPHOBIA, AICHMOPHOBIA, ACROPHOBIA, CLAUSTROPHOBIA, SOCIAL PHOBIAS...

HUH?!
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY AND DRAW A PICTURE OF A BUTTERFLY RIGHT HERE?

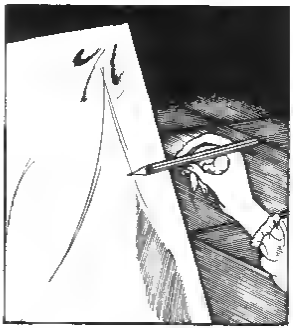
SAY! I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA!

YOU WANT TO TRY IT?

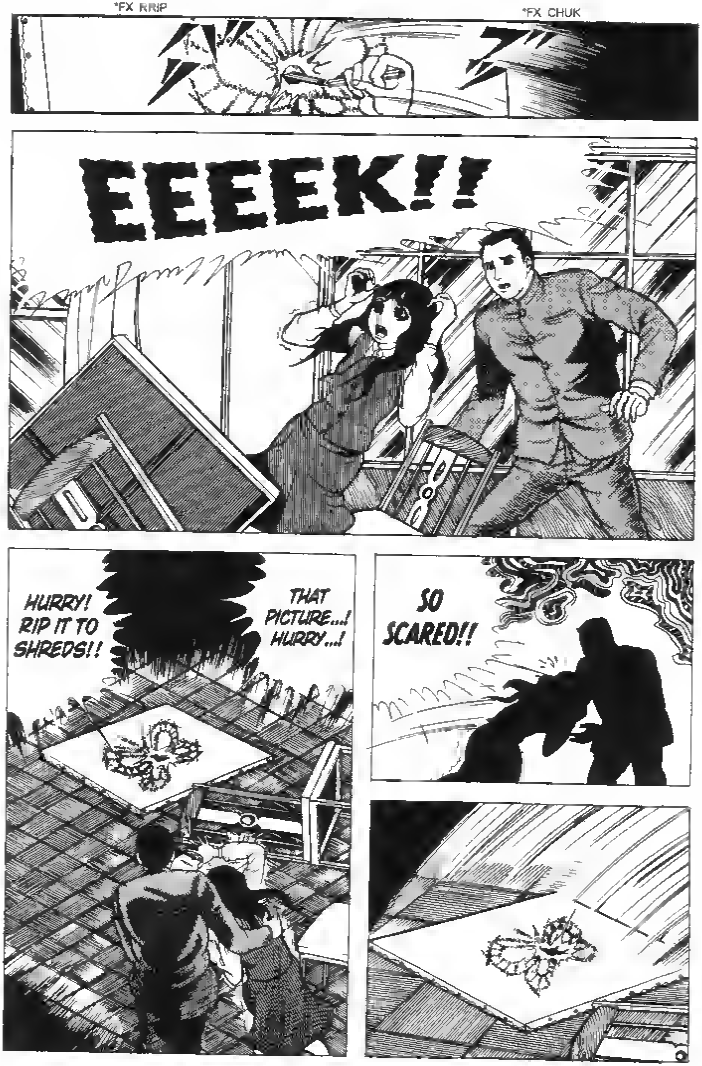

IT'S NOT REAL, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE NO-THING TO FEAR.
IT'S JUST A DRAWING, SO YOU'LL BE SAFE!

I'LL DO IT!

DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU!



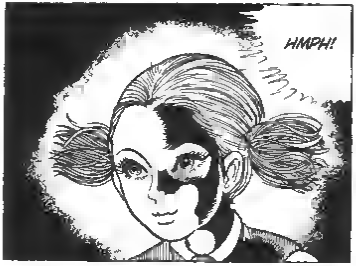
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I'D DRAWN A BUTTER-FLY...
AAH! AAH!
HUH?! WH... WHAT'S WRONG?
IT--IT'S THE BUTTERFLY...
I'M SO FRIGHTENED!
BUTTERFLIES ARE EVIL! ILL OMENS!
THE BUTTER-FLY IS THE DEVIL...!
BUTTERFLIES ARE THE PER-SONIFICATION OF EVIL!!


*FX RRIP
*FX CHUK
EEEEK!!
HURRY! RIP IT TO SHREDS!!
THAT PICTURE...! HURRY...!
SO SCARED!!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE MADE THINGS WORSE...
MEGUMI, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
AFTER THAT, I BEGAN TO SEE THE BUTTERFLY CLEARLY...
OKAY, WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
I'M FINE.
IT'S ME!

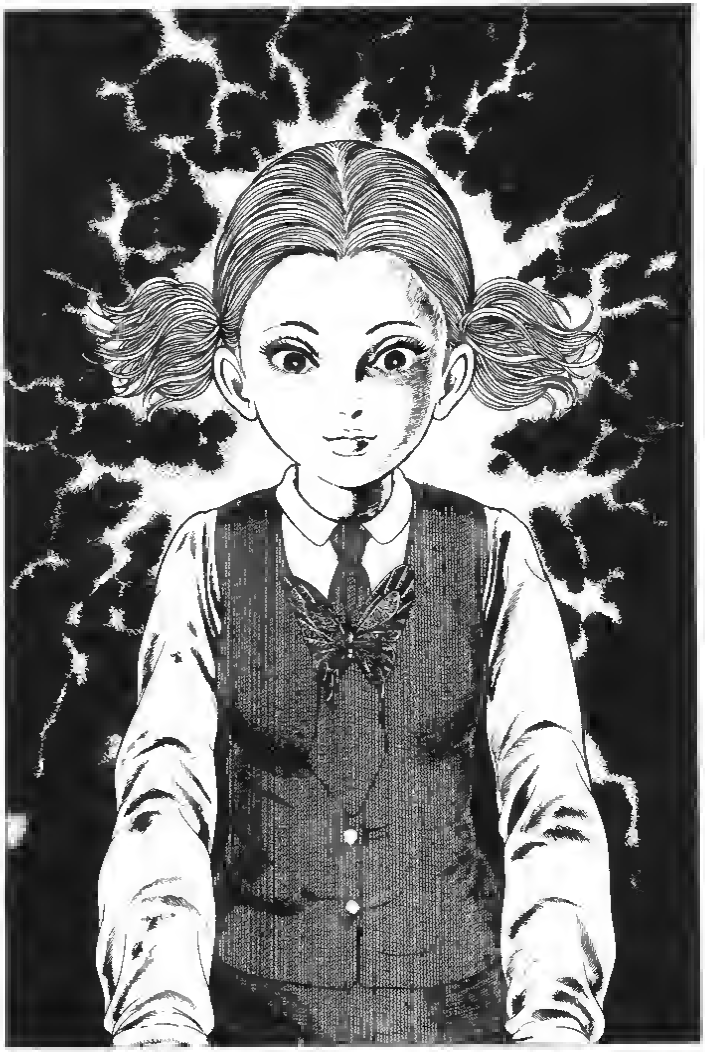
YOUR FAMILY'S RICH, YOU'RE GOOD AT SCHOOL, PRETTY. IT'S SO EASY FOR YOU TO FOOL MEN, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?!
THERE ARE OTHERS WHO LIKE HIM TOO, YOU KNOW?!
I WANT YOU TO BREAK UP WITH KOSEI!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
AAH!
LOOK!
THE VIOLENT-TYPE, HUH? HEH HEH HEH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME, HANA!?!
EEEK!!
STILL WANNA GO OUT WITH KOSEI?
LOOK! LOOK!
DARN! IT GOT AWAY!
STOP!!

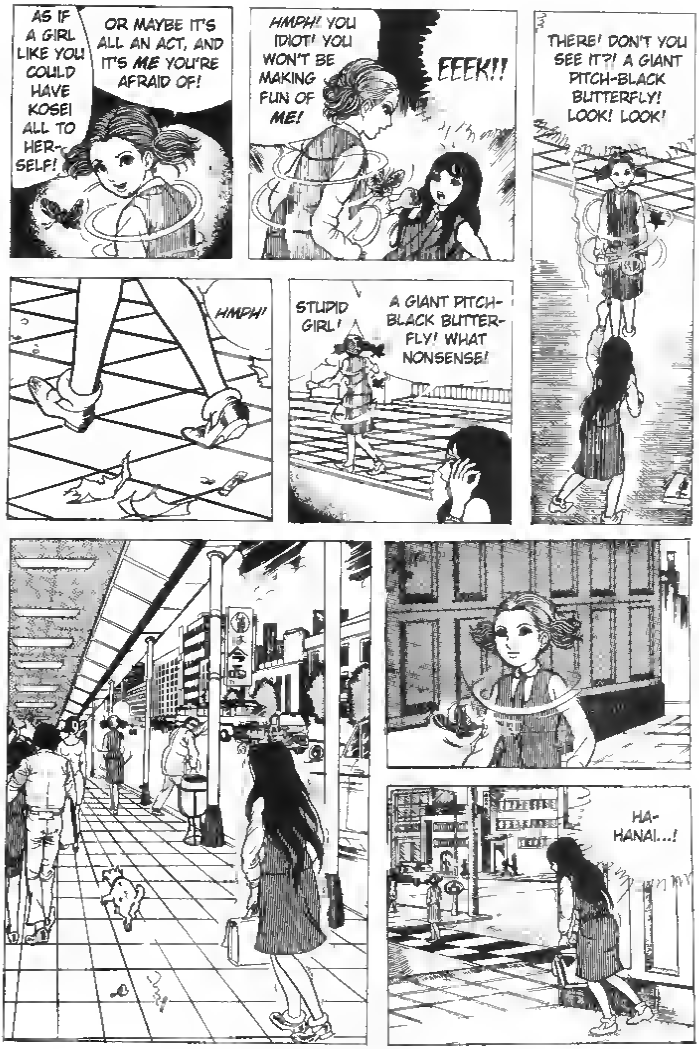
HMPH! THE BUTTERFLY JUST GOT AWAY!
SAY WHAT?!
A BUTTER-FLY!!
AAH!
A BUTTER-FLY!!
AIEEE!!

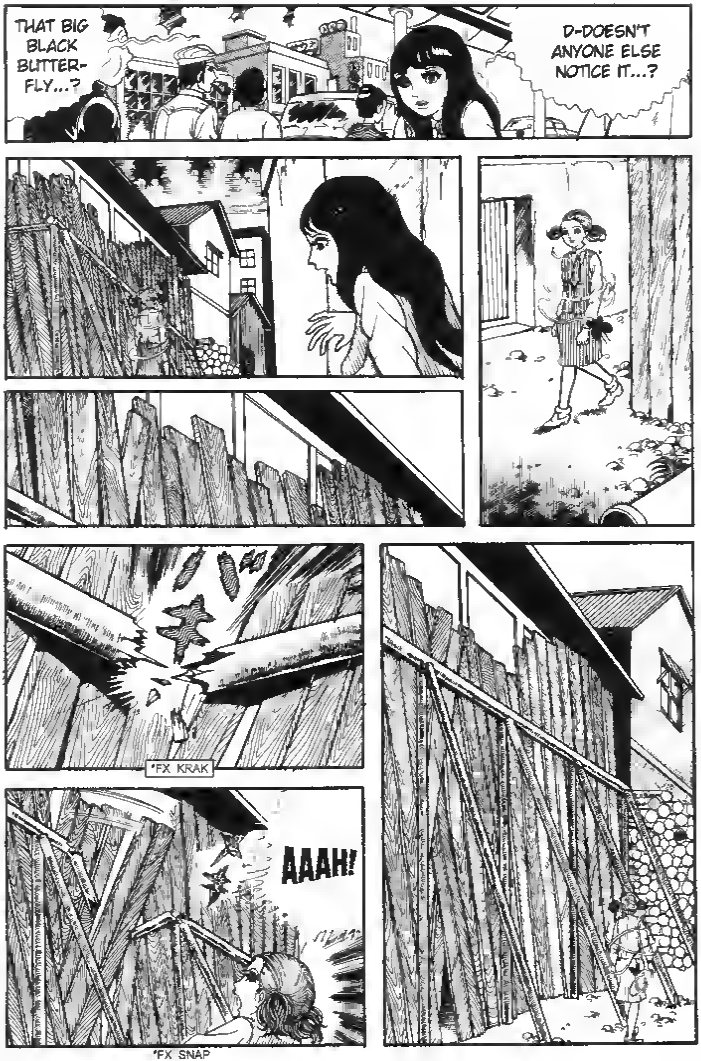

HMPH!

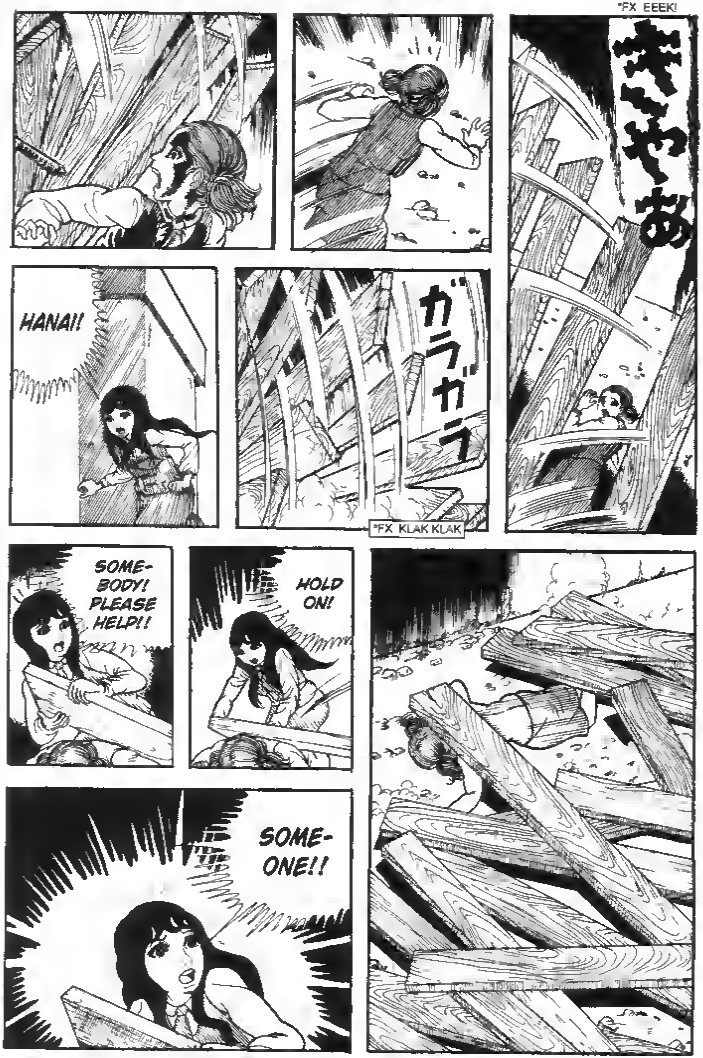
A PITCH-BLACK BUTTER-FLY!!

THERE'S NO BUTTERFLY HERE ANYWHERE!



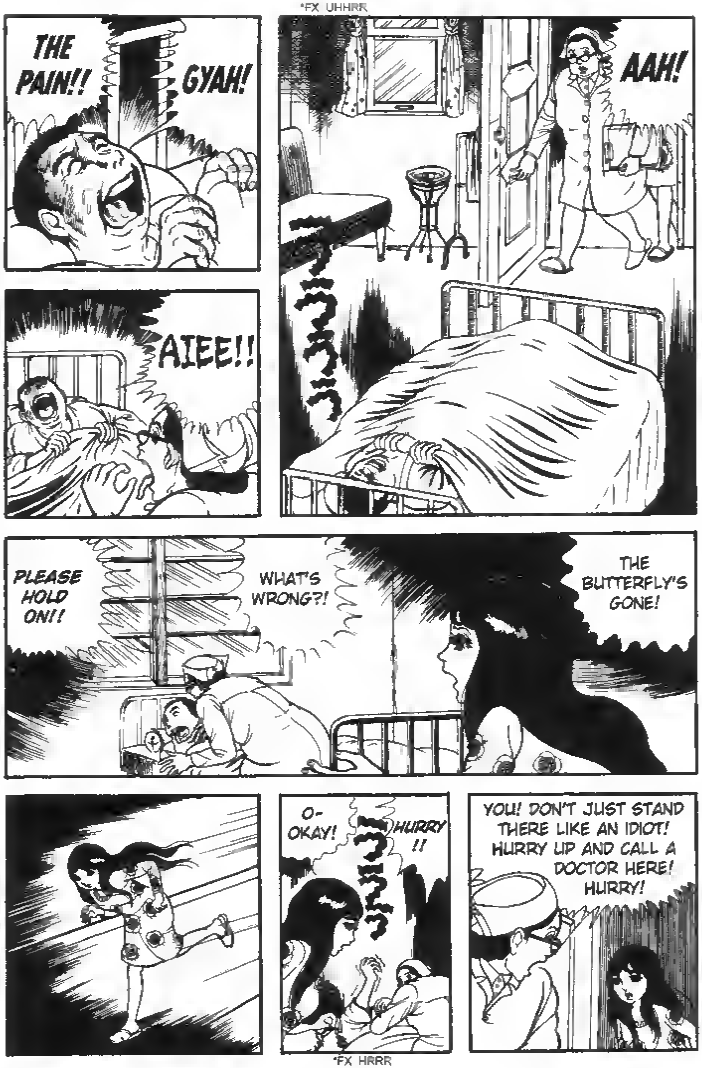

AS IF A GIRL LIKE YOU COULD HAVE KOSEI ALL TO HER-SELF!
OR MAYBE IT'S ALL AN ACT, AND IT'S ME YOU'RE AFRAID OF!
HMPH! YOU IDIOT! YOU WON'T BE MAKING FUN OF ME!
EEEK!!
THERE! DON'T YOU SEE IT?! A GIANT PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY! LOOK! LOOK!
HMPH!
STUPID GIRL!
A GIANT PITCH-BLACK BUTTER-FLY! WHAT NONSENSE!
HA-HANA!...!

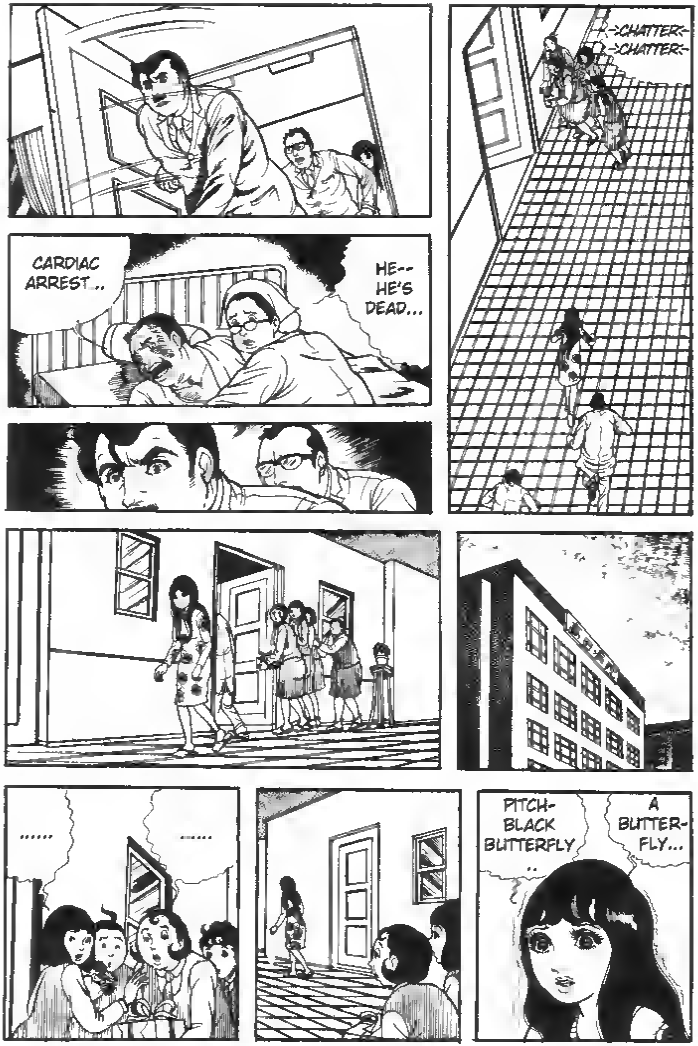

THAT BIG BLACK BUTTER-FLY...?
D-DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE NOTICE IT...?
*FX KRAK
AAAH!
*FX SNAP


*FX EEEK!
きゃあ
HANA!!
ガラガラ
*FX KLAK KLAK
SOME-BODY! PLEASE HELP!!
HOLD ON!
SOME-ONE!!

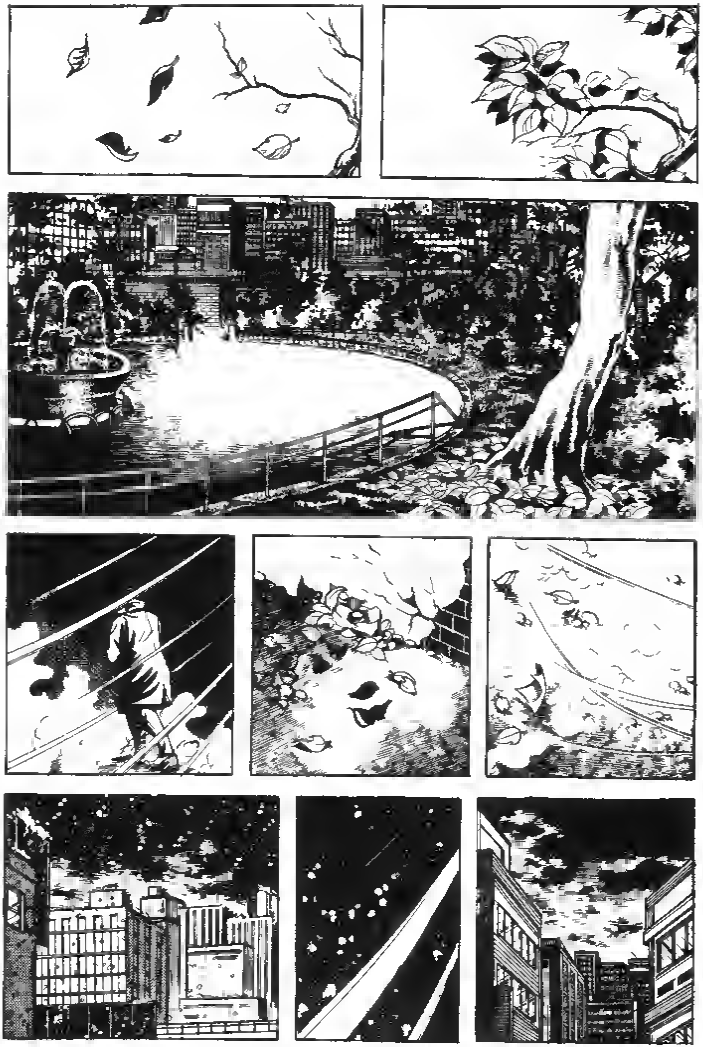
HER OTHER FRIENDS FROM CLASS ARE HERE VISITING, TOO!
OH!
BECAUSE OF MY INVOLVE-MENT IN THE COURSE OF EVENTS, I WENT TO VISIT MISS HANAI IN THE HOSPITAL.
*sign TAKADA HOSPITAL
IT TOOK MISS HANAI A MONTH TO FULLY RECOVER FROM HER INJURIES.
高田病院
I NEVER KNEW MEGUMI WAS SUCH AN AWFUL GIRL...!
WHAT HORRIBLE LIES.. I CAN'T VISIT HER NOW!
I HEARD SHE PUSHED MISS HANAI OVER.. AND THEN SOME LUMBER FELL ON TOP OF MISS HANAI!
NO!
AAH!

ABOVE THAT PATIENT--THE BUTTERFLY FROM BEFORE!!
AAH!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
A BUTTERFLY! A BLACK BUTTERFLY! IN THAT ROOM--ABOVE THE PATIENT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?! YOU MUST BE QUIET HERE! THIS IS A HOSPITAL!
EEEK!
H-HELP!!
IT'S TRUE! A DISGUSTING, PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY! OVER THERE!
HEY! THERE'S MEGUMI!
THE PATIENT IN THIS ROOM IS IN GOOD HEALTH AND IS GOING HOME TOMORROW!
PLEASE, YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK SUCH NONSENSE!
*FX KREEK


*FX UHHRR
THE PAIN!!
GYAH!
AAH!
AIEE!!
PLEASE HOLD ON!!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
THE BUTTERFLY'S GONE!
O-OKAY!
HURRY !!
YOU! DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE AN IDIOT! HURRY UP AND CALL A DOCTOR HERE! HURRY!
*FX HRRR

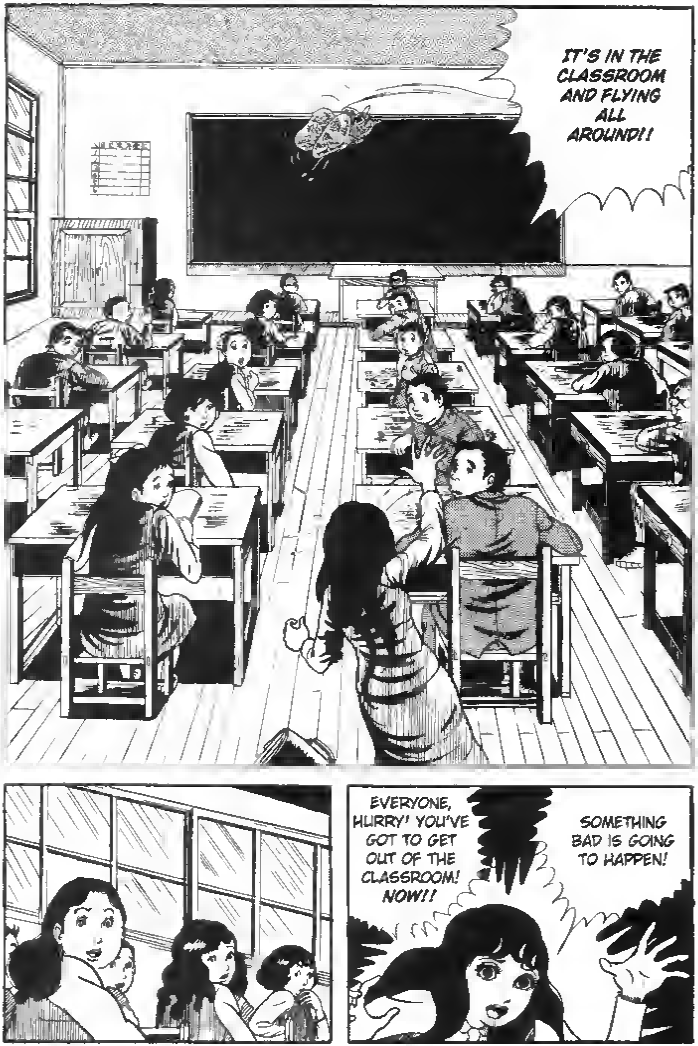

CARDIAC ARREST..
HE-- HE'S DEAD...
:CHATTER:
:CHATTER:
.....
.....
PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY..
A BUTTER-FLY...

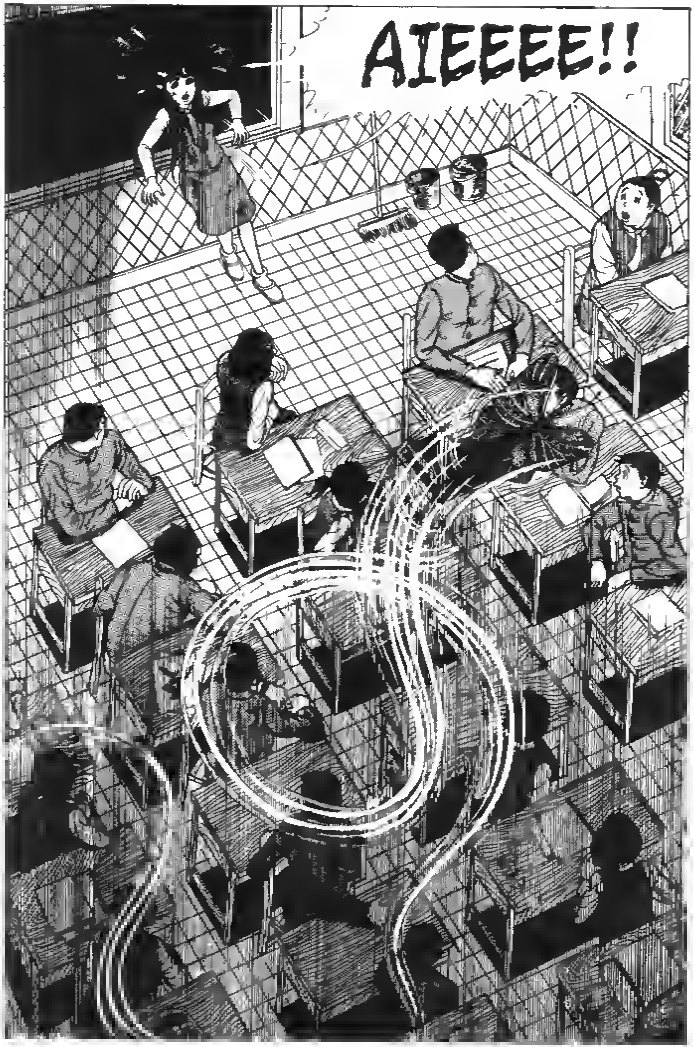
*FX FUD
THERE'S NO SUCH STRANGE PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY IN ANY OF THE BOOKS
OR PERHAPS... I'VE TRULY STARTED TO GO INSANE
OF COURSE! THAT BUTTERFLY I SAW IN THE CAR ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE VILLA MUST'VE BEEN THE SAME ONE!
...SINCE NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE THAT BUTTERFLY LIKE I DO.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS... BUT I WAS SINGLE-MINDED IN MY FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES!! AND NOW, I WAS SEEING THIS BLACK.. PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY..
IT WAS AS IF DEEP IN THE DARKNESS OF MY HEART, SOMETHING WAS TORMENTING ME... SOMETHING.



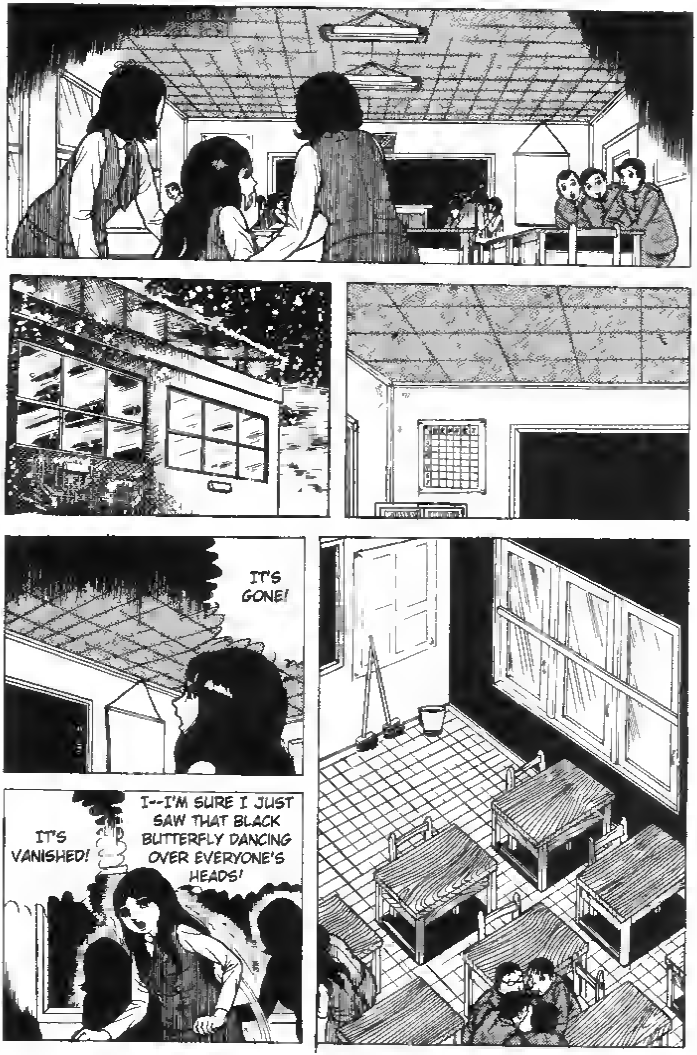
THE BLACK BUTTERFLY THAT ONLY I COULD SEE WAS A BUTTERFLY OF ILL OMEN.. I FINALLY KNEW THIS FOR CERTAIN WHEN WINTER CAME. .
sign SUBWAY
AAH!
A BUTTERFLY!!

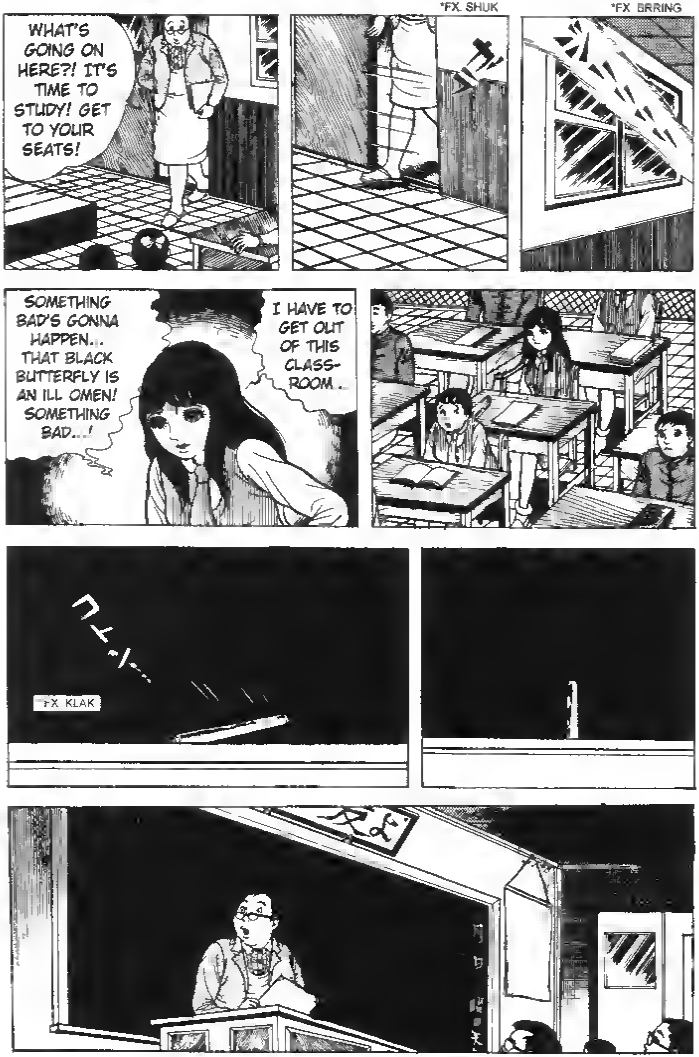
THE BUTTERFLY! IT'S CHASING ME...!
AAH!
MEGUMI!
EEEK!
EEEK!!
AAAH!!
AAH!
THERE CAN'T BE ANY BUTTER-FLIES!
THAT BLACK BUTTERFLY-- BUT IT'S WINTER...!
-HAH- -HAH-
THE BUTTERFLY SOMEHOW GOT IN THE CLASSROOM!
FX SLAM


IT'S IN THE CLASSROOM AND FLYING ALL AROUND!!
EVERYONE, HURRY! YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE CLASSROOM! NOW!!
SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN!


AIEEEE!!

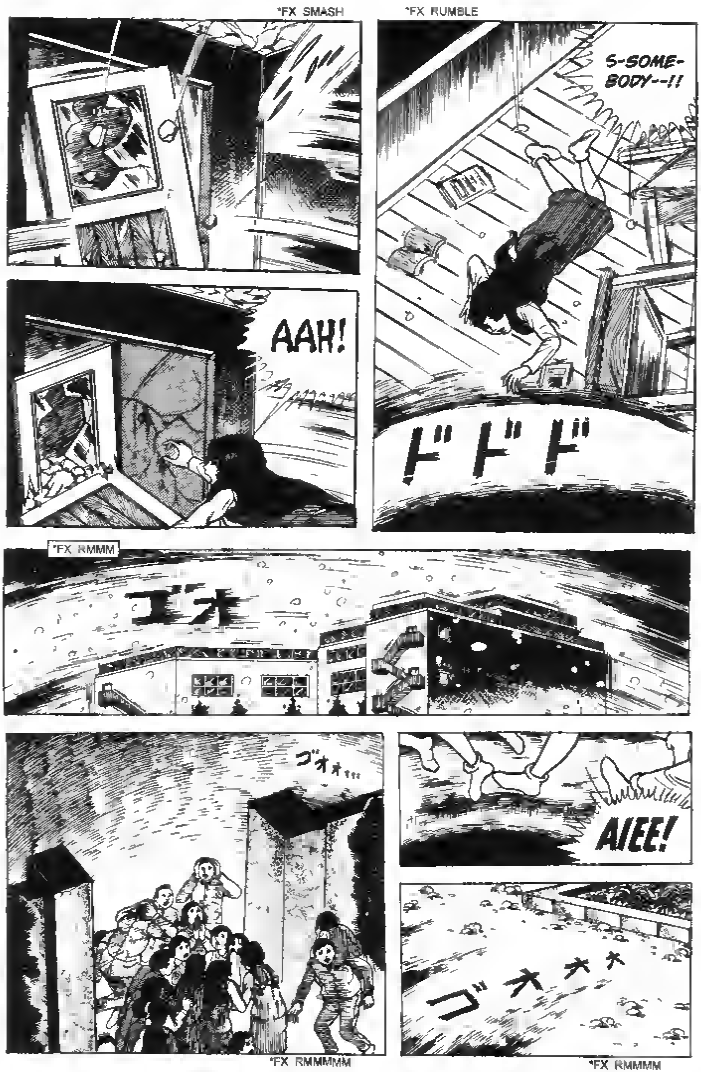
M-MEGUMI!!
MISS OKA-NOUE!
S-SOMEBODY BETTER GO GET A TEACHER, AND FAST!
MEGUMI!
MEGUMI!
-:PSST:-
-:PSST:-


IT'S GONE!
I--I'M SURE I JUST SAW THAT BLACK BUTTERFLY DANCING OVER EVERYONE'S HEADS!
IT'S VANISHED!

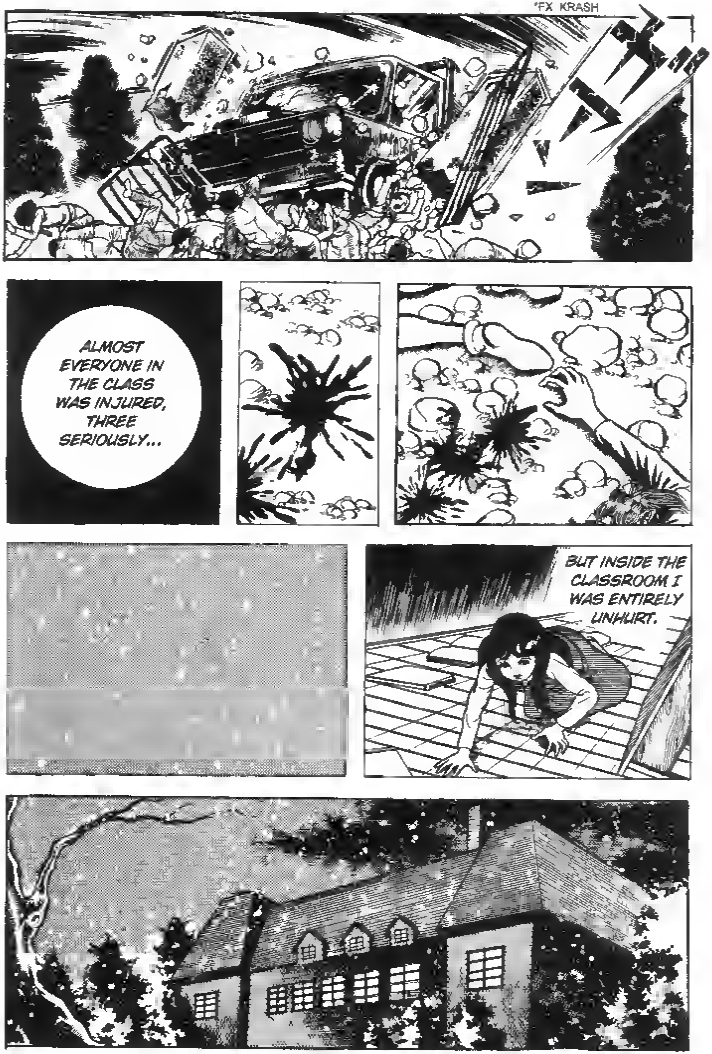

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! IT'S TIME TO STUDY! GET TO YOUR SEATS!
*FX SHUK
*FX BRRING
SOMETHING BAD'S GONNA HAPPEN... THAT BLACK BUTTERFLY IS AN ILL OMEN! SOMETHING BAD...!
I HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS CLASS-ROOM..
*FX KLAK

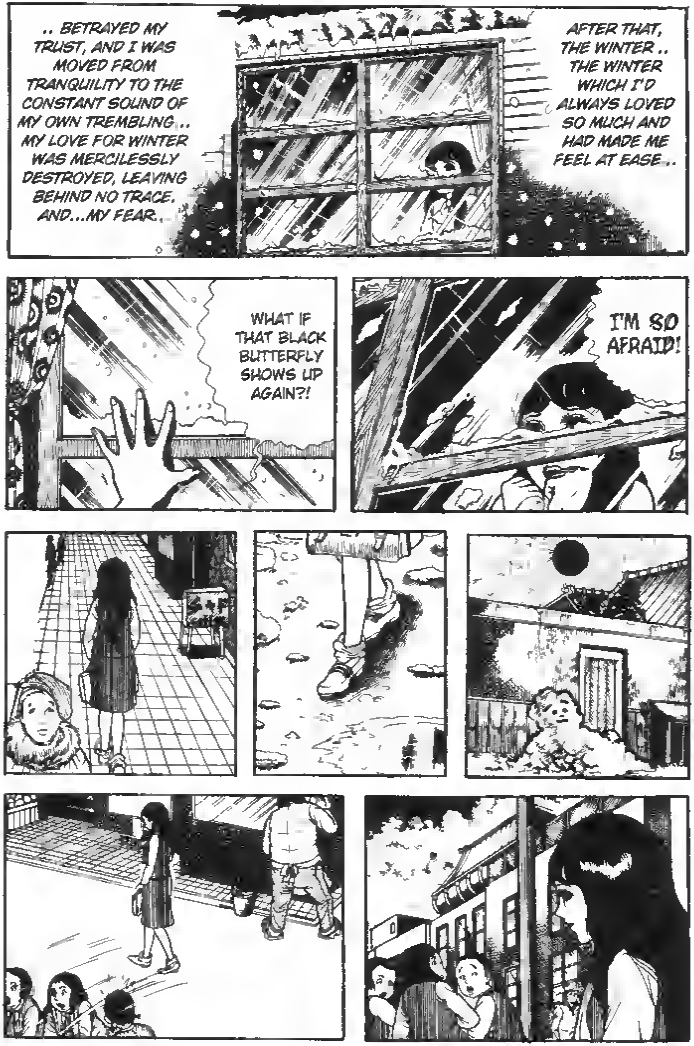
*FX GRRRRR
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ドドッ
*FX THD THD
ビビ
*FX SKASH
*FX KRAK
EARTHQUAKE!!
ドドド
A BIG ONE!!
*FX WHUD WHUD

*FX SMASH SMASH
AIEEE!!
EEEEK!!
*FX GRRRRR
EEEK!
EEEK!
*FX THDTHDTHDTHD
GYAA!
SAVE ME!!
AAH!
*FX THUD
AAAH!
*FX GRRR


*FX SMASH
*FX RUMBLE
S-SOME-BODY--!!
AAH!
ドドド
*FX RMMM
ゴオ
ゴオォ...
AIEE!
ゴオォォ
*FX RMMMMM
*FX RMMMM

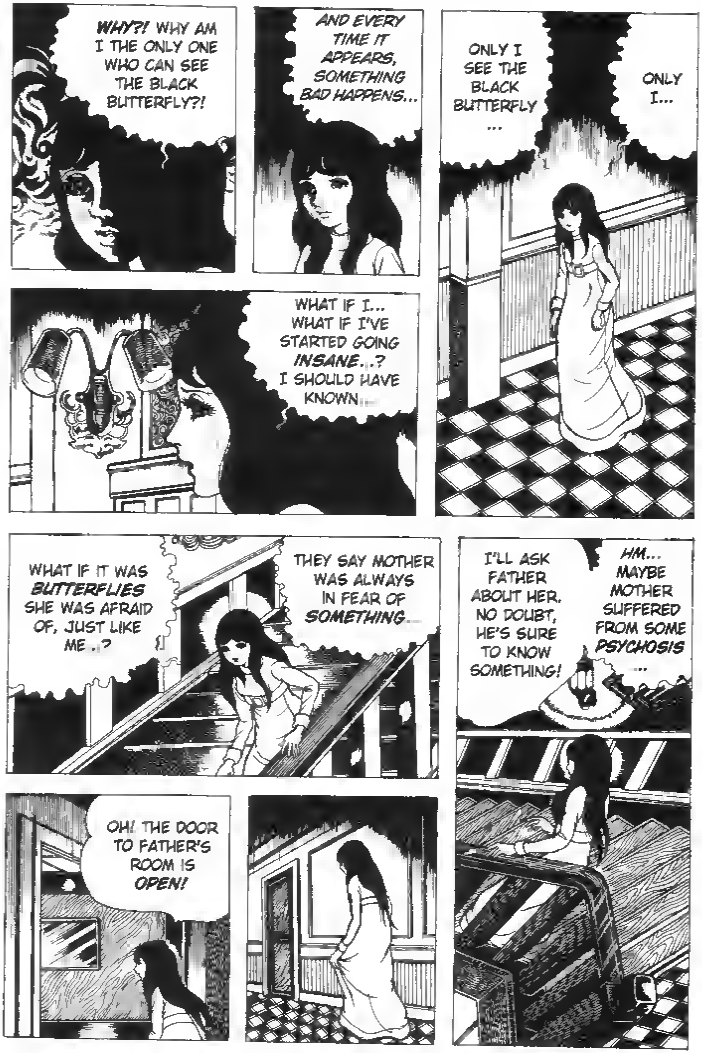
THEY COME JUST WHEN YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM!
WHAT A HUGE QUAKE!
THAT WAS SO SCARY..
AAAH!!
WHAT IF SHE'S BURIED IN THE CLASSROOM..?
HUH?!
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO MEGUMI?
*FX VRRMMM


*FX KRASH
ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE CLASS WAS INJURED, THREE SERIOUSLY...
BUT INSIDE THE CLASSROOM I WAS ENTIRELY UNHURT.


.. BETRAYED MY TRUST, AND I WAS MOVED FROM TRANQUILITY TO THE CONSTANT SOUND OF MY OWN TREMBLING... MY LOVE FOR WINTER WAS MERCILESSLY DESTROYED, LEAVING BEHIND NO TRACE. AND...MY FEAR..
AFTER THAT, THE WINTER.. THE WINTER WHICH I'D ALWAYS LOVED SO MUCH AND HAD MADE ME FEEL AT EASE..
WHAT IF THAT BLACK BUTTERFLY SHOWS UP AGAIN?!
I'M SO AFRAID!

LITTLE BY LITTLE, MY FRIENDS FROM CLASS BEGAN AVOIDING ME.
*sign QUIET IN THE HALLS
KOSEI! CAN WE TALK?
STILL, I TRIED TO PERSEVERE. UNTIL KOSEI STARTED TRYING TO AVOID ME TOO...
YEAH! I HEARD IF YOU HANG AROUND HER, SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING CREEPY ABOUT HER!
I'M IN A RUSH TODAY!
*sign SAKURA

*FX LA LA LA LA...
*FX LA LA LA
I WAS WATCHING TV...
AFTER THAT, I SAW THE BLACK BUTTERFLY AGAIN.
*FX LA LA LA
THE BUTTERFLY!
EEEK!!
THE NEXT DAY, THE NEWS SAID THAT THE CELEBRITY WAS INJURED WHEN HE GOT CAUGHT IN A TRAP DOOR ON STAGE.
*FX CHIK
...BUT THERE WAS NO MENTION OF ANYONE SEEING A BLACK BUTTERFLY...

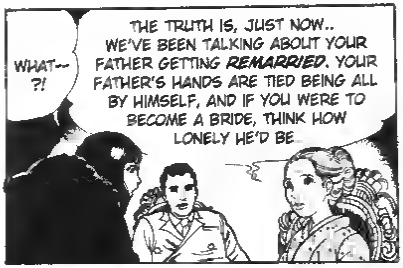

WHY?! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE BLACK BUTTERFLY?!
AND EVERY TIME IT APPEARS, SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS...
ONLY I SEE THE BLACK BUTTERFLY ...
ONLY I...
WHAT IF I... WHAT IF I'VE STARTED GOING INSANE...? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
WHAT IF IT WAS BUTTERFLIES SHE WAS AFRAID OF, JUST LIKE ME..?
THEY SAY MOTHER WAS ALWAYS IN FEAR OF SOMETHING...
I'LL ASK FATHER ABOUT HER. NO DOUBT, HE'S SURE TO KNOW SOMETHING!
HM... MAYBE MOTHER SUFFERED FROM SOME PSYCHOSIS ...
OH! THE DOOR TO FATHER'S ROOM IS OPEN!

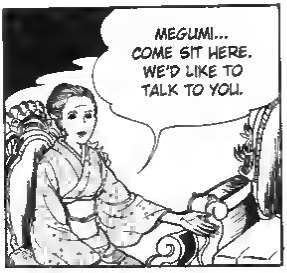
AAH!!

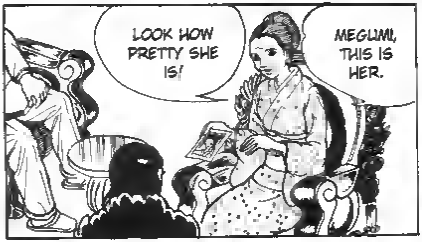
THE BUTTERFLY-- FLYING AROUND FATHER!!
WHO'S THERE?
*FX SLAM
AAH!!

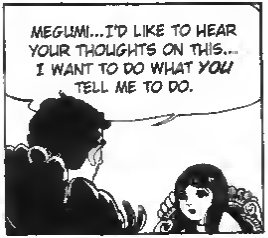
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT VANISHED ...
IT'S GONE...
IT . IT'S NOTHING!
WHY DO YOU ASK SUCH A THING ..?
MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER, DID SHE .?
I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, FATHER.
WHAT IF SHE WAS AFRAID OF BUTTERFLIES TOO?
WHAT---?!
I WANT TO ASK ABOUT MOTHER...

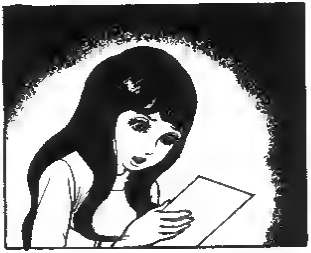
IT'S POSSIBLE I GOT MY FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES THROUGH MOTHER'S BLOOD, RIGHT?!
FATHER, PLEASE TELL ME! I HAVE TO KNOW!
WAS MY MOTHER AFRAID OF BUTTER-FLIES?!
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR MOTHER.
BUT LIKE YOUR MOTHER, YOU'RE TOO HIGH-STRUNG SOME-HOW.
MEGUMI, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!
BY YOUR THINKING, IF YOU INHERITED YOUR MOTHER'S BLOOD THEN YOU SHOULD LOVE BUTTER-FLIES TOO
THE THING YOUR MOTHER FEARED WAS ME.
HUH--?!
IN FACT.. YOUR MOTHER LOVED BUTTERFLIES! ONE OF THE REASONS YOUR MOTHER ENJOYED THE VILLA SO MUCH WAS BECAUSE OF ALL THE BUTTERFLIES! THAT'S PROOF SHE DIDN'T FEAR THEM!
I...
HER LINEAGE WAS UNKNOWN, SHE WAS POOR...SO I DISLIKED YOUR MOTHER VERY MUCH.
BECAUSE I DISLIKED YOUR MOTHER. THAT'S WHY SHE DIDN'T WANT TO RETURN TO TOKYO.
WH-WHY.. ?

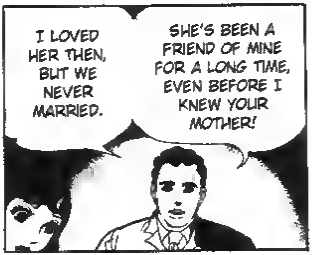

WHAT--?!
THE TRUTH IS, JUST NOW.. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT YOUR FATHER GETTING *REMARRIED*. YOUR FATHER'S HANDS ARE TIED BEING ALL BY HIMSELF, AND IF YOU WERE TO BECOME A BRIDE, THINK HOW LONELY HE'D BE.

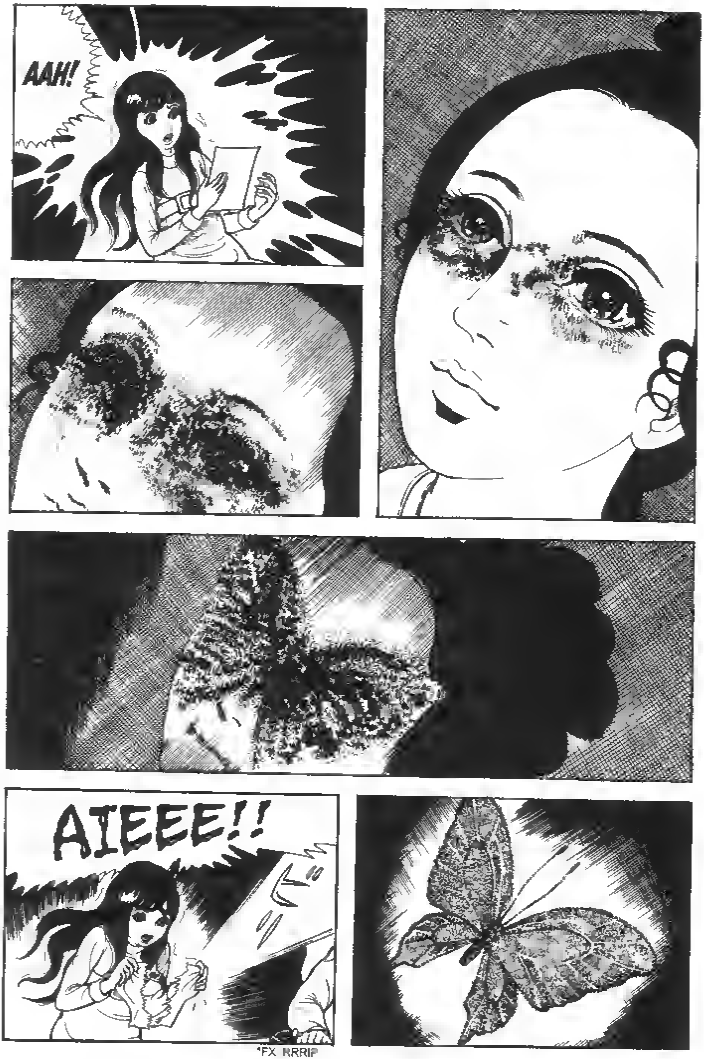

MEGUMI... COME SIT HERE. WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.


LOOK HOW PRETTY SHE IS!
MEGUMI, THIS IS HER.


MEGUMI...I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS... I WANT TO DO WHAT *YOU* TELL ME TO DO.

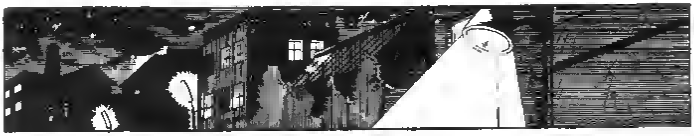



I LOVED HER THEN, BUT WE NEVER MARRIED.
SHE'S BEEN A FRIEND OF MINE FOR A LONG TIME, EVEN BEFORE I KNEW YOUR MOTHER!


AAH!
AIEEE!!
*FX: RRRIP

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
MEGU-MI!
A BUTTERFLY ...!
THIS PERSON IS EVIL!!
*FX SPOP
EEEK!!
EEEK!!
AAH!
*FX FUT

MEGUMI
A BUTTER-FLY!
*FX EEEEK
IT'S SO SCARY!
MEGU-MI!!
SO AFRAID OF BUTTERFLIES!!
SO AFRAID..



I'VE STARTED TO LOSE MY MIND-- I KNOW IT!

THAT WOMAN LOOKED SO KIND, AND I CALLED HER A BUTTERFLY. FATHER AND GRANDMOTHER MUST BE SO ANGRY AT ME!

WHY DID I ACT SO FOOLISH IN FRONT OF FATHER. .?

..AND IN HER ANGER, SHE TURNED INTO A BUTTERFLY AND FLEW OUT OF HER GRAVE-STONE, JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM!

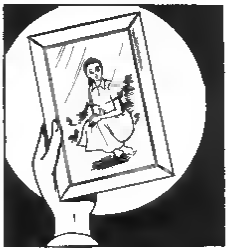
WHAT IF MOTHER KNEW ABOUT FATHER AND THIS NEW WOMAN...

MOTHER!

IN SOME CORNER OF MY MIND, I GRADUALLY BEGAN TO WONDER IF THIS WAS ACTUALLY THE TRUTH...

BUT.. BUT POOR DAD CAN'T GO ON ALONE LIKE THIS!

MOTHER MUST *HATE* FATHER FOR TAKING ON A NEW WIFE!



Y-YOUNG MISS!
THEY'RE LOOKING AT ME AS IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY MIND! I CAN NEVER SAY ANYTHING ABOUT BUTTERFLIES AGAIN!
I KNEW IT! EVERYONE'S EYEING ME SUSPICIOUSLY
FATHER!
MEGUMI
Y-YES. .
YOU APPROVE OF YOUR NEW MOTHER, DON'T YOU?
"ONLY"...?
BUT... ONLY...

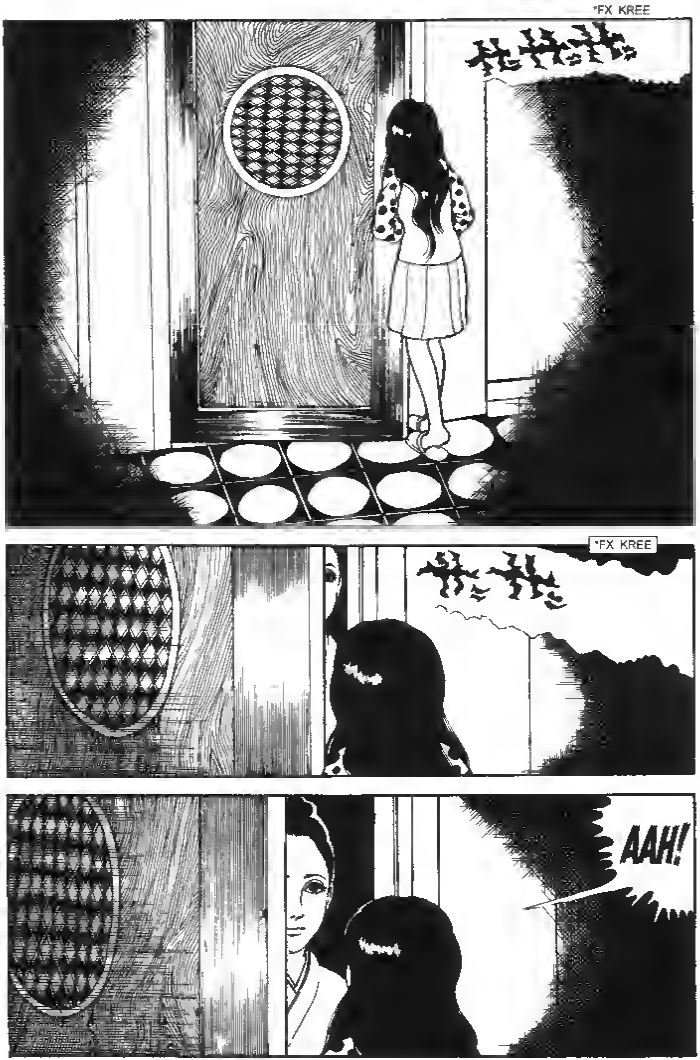
*FX FLIT FLIT
ヒラ
ヒラ
AAH!
MOTHER!!
MEGUMI!
ガチャ
ガチャ
URR!
THAT NIGHT...
*FX CHAK KLAK

MY MY EYES...
AAAH!!
MASTER!
WHAT--?!
I CAN'T SEE!!
SHE IS SURE TO JOIN ME NOW...
MOTHER...
FATHER LOST HIS VISION FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, AND SO THE DECISION TO MARRY MY NEW MOTHER WAS RUSHED AHEAD...
*FX KRAK

*FX NOK NOK
MEGUMI!
AAH!
LISTEN. YOU'RE NEW MOTHER, NAMI. SHE'S ON HER WAY HERE TO MEET YOU, SO PLEASE BE ON YOUR BEST BEHAVIOR!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE GONE TOTALLY PALE!
*FX CHAK
*FX SLAM
SHE'S FROM A GOOD FAMILY, AND YOU WON'T MEET A KINDER PERSON.
WHEN NAMI HEARD ABOUT YOUR FATHER LOSING HIS SIGHT, THEY MADE A FIRM DECISION THAT THE WEDDING WOULD GO AHEAD
...IT'S MY NEW MOTHER?
THOSE VOICES OUTSIDE I WONDER IF...
...I DIDN'T LEAVE MY ROOM
BUT UNTIL MY NEW MOTHER CAME...

IT'S YOUR NEW MOTHER! COME OUT AND SAY HELLO!
WHAT'S WRONG?
MEGUMI, PLEASE OPEN UP!
*FX NOK NOK
KNOCK
MEGUMI!
MEGUMI, WHY ARE YOU BEING SO RUDE TO ME?
-HAH!-
-HAH!-
MEGUMI!!
*FX KREEK
IT'S FINALLY QUIET! THEY MUST'VE ALL GONE TO BED.... I HAVE TO SEE HER ONCE..

*FX KREEEEEK

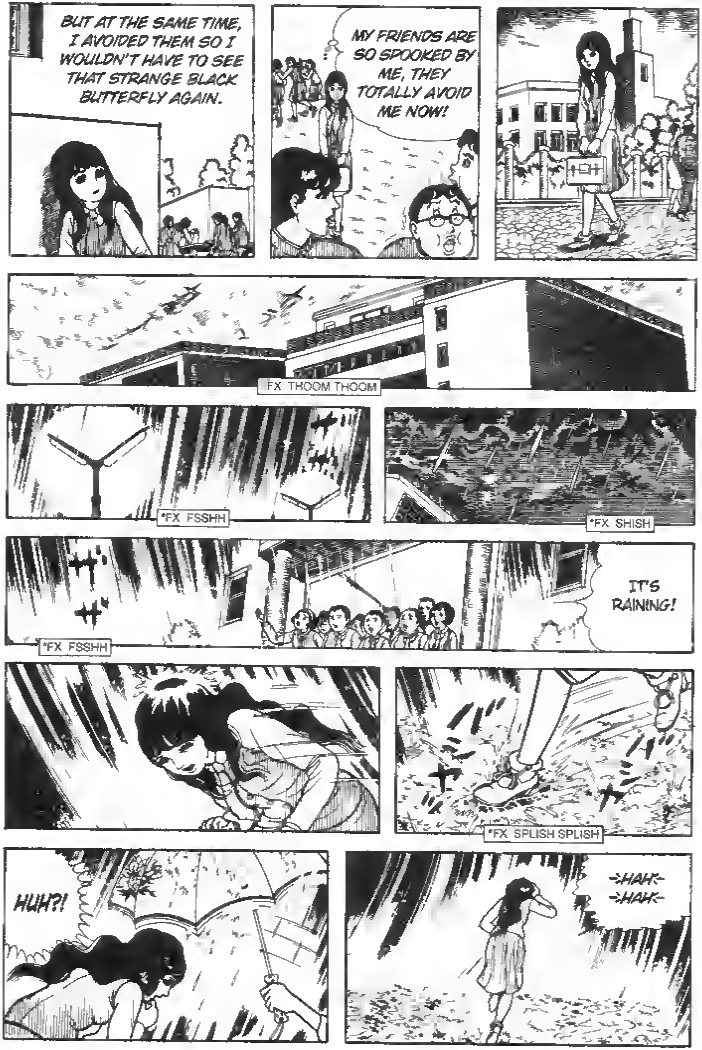

*FX KREE
*FX KREE
AAH!

EEEEK!!
MEGUMI...
AIEEEE!
*FX SLAM
MEGUMI, I WANT TO TALK..!
*FX NOK NOK
*FX NOK NOK
MEGUMI!!

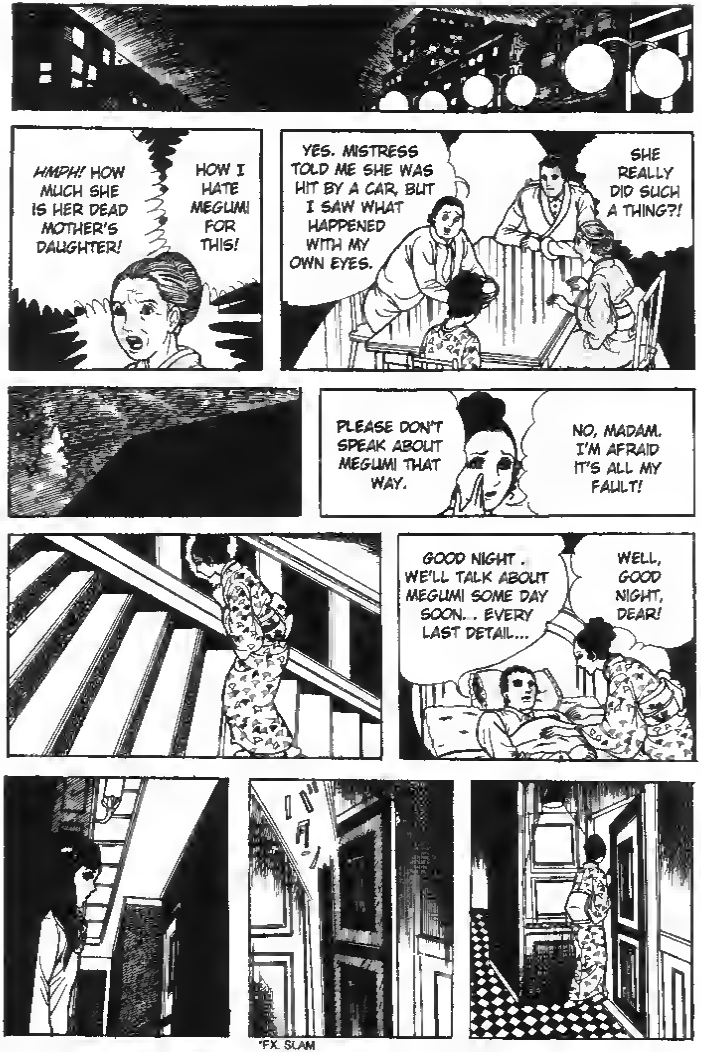
MISTRESS
SHE'S A SMART GIRL. ONCE SHE CALMS DOWN, SHE'LL COME TO SEE YOU HERSELF.
YOUNG MISS IS SIMPLY OVER-REACTING!
-HAH-
-HAH-
-HAH-

APPLE PIE! MY FAVORITE...
GOOD! NO ONE'S HERE!
AFTER THAT, I DID EVERYTHING I COULD TO AVOID MEETING MY NEW MOTHER FACE TO FACE
HUH--?!
MISTRESS BAKED THAT JUST FOR YOU, YOUNG MISS!
YOUNG MISS!
AAH!
カ"チャン
OH! MISTRESS!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
*FX SMASH

I KNOW HER TRUE FEELINGS NOW!
YOUNG MISS SIMPLY CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HER DECEASED MOTHER.. THAT'S ALL!
YES, LOVE...
DEAR...
THERE WAS NO SIGN THAT FATHER'S SUDDEN BLINDNESS WAS GOING TO GET ANY BETTER.
HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE!
AND I WILL BE A GOOD FRIEND TO MEGUMI, TOO!
I'M SURE I'LL BE A GOOD WIFE FOR YOU! SO YOU MUST GET BETTER.
NO! I'M VERY HAPPY!
FORGIVE ME.. YOU'RE HERE FOR ME, BUT LIKE THIS YOU'RE NOT ONE BIT HAPPY, ARE YOU?
WHY..?
SHE'S SO KIND.. WHY..?

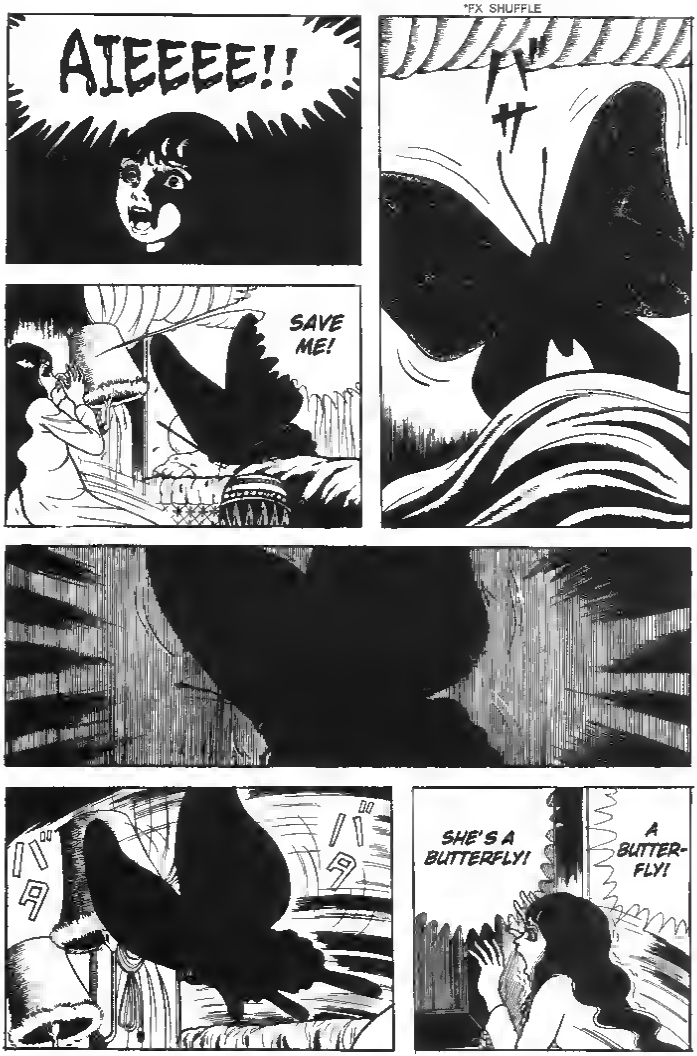

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I AVOIDED THEM SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SEE THAT STRANGE BLACK BUTTERFLY AGAIN.
MY FRIENDS ARE SO SPOOKED BY ME, THEY TOTALLY AVOID ME NOW!
FX THOOM THOOM
*FX FSSHH
*FX SHISH
*FX FSSHH
IT'S RAINING!
*FX SPLISH SPLISH
HUH?!
-HAH-
-HAH-

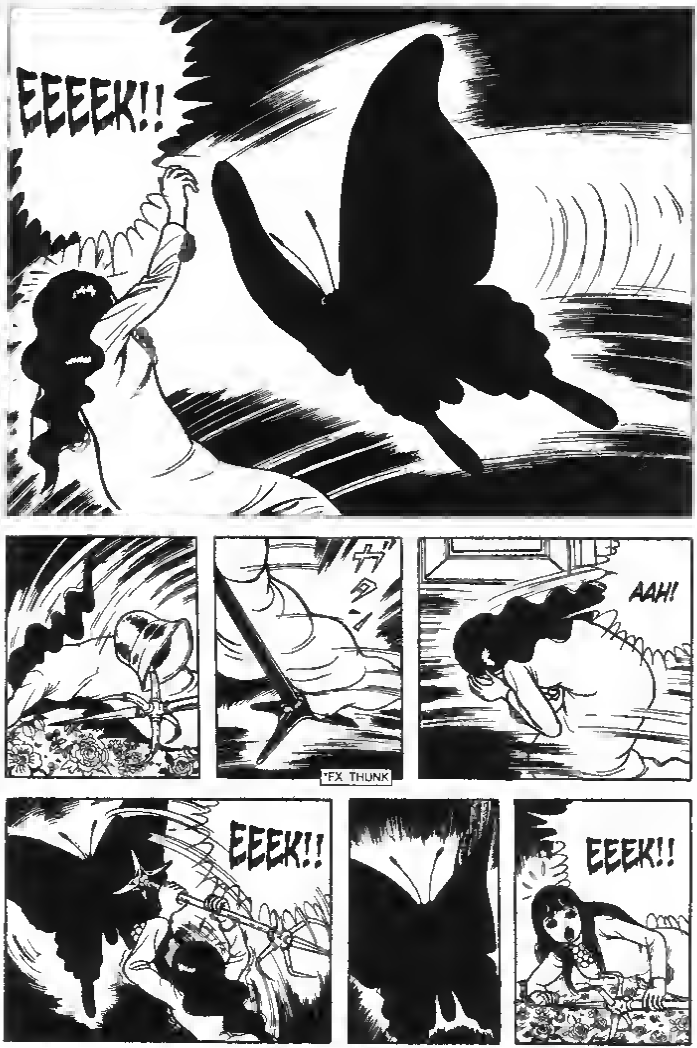
AAH!!
EEEK!!
*FX FUMP
HUH?!
*FX SPLASH
*FX SPLASH SPLASH
MEGUMI...

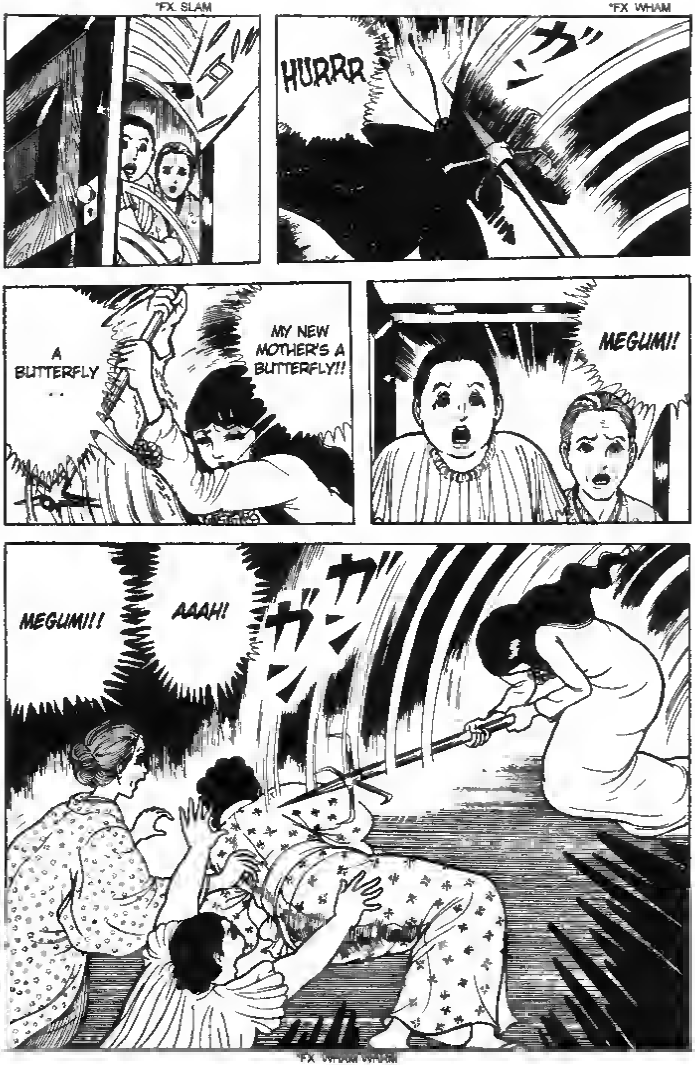

HMPH! HOW MUCH SHE IS HER DEAD MOTHER'S DAUGHTER!
HOW I HATE MEGUMI FOR THIS!
YES. MISTRESS TOLD ME SHE WAS HIT BY A CAR, BUT I SAW WHAT HAPPENED WITH MY OWN EYES.
SHE REALLY DID SUCH A THING?!
PLEASE DON'T SPEAK ABOUT MEGUMI THAT WAY.
NO, MADAM. I'M AFRAID IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
GOOD NIGHT. WE'LL TALK ABOUT MEGUMI SOME DAY SOON... EVERY LAST DETAIL...
WELL, GOOD NIGHT, DEAR!
*F.X. SLAM

I CAN HEAR HER SLEEPING
-:ZZZZ:-
THAT NIGHT I MADE THE DECISION TO APOLOGIZE TO MY NEW MOTHER.
FX KREEK
HUH?!
AAAH!!

ZZZ
ZZZ
*FX CHAK
*FX SLAM
AIEEE!!
S-SOME-BODY HELP!!
SHE'S A BUTTER-FLY!!
*FX BAM BAM
AAH!
FX KTCH KTCH
EEEEK!!


AIEEEE!!
*FX. SHUFFLE
SAVE ME!
*FX. FLAP FLAP
SHE'S A BUTTERFLY!
A BUTTER-FLY!

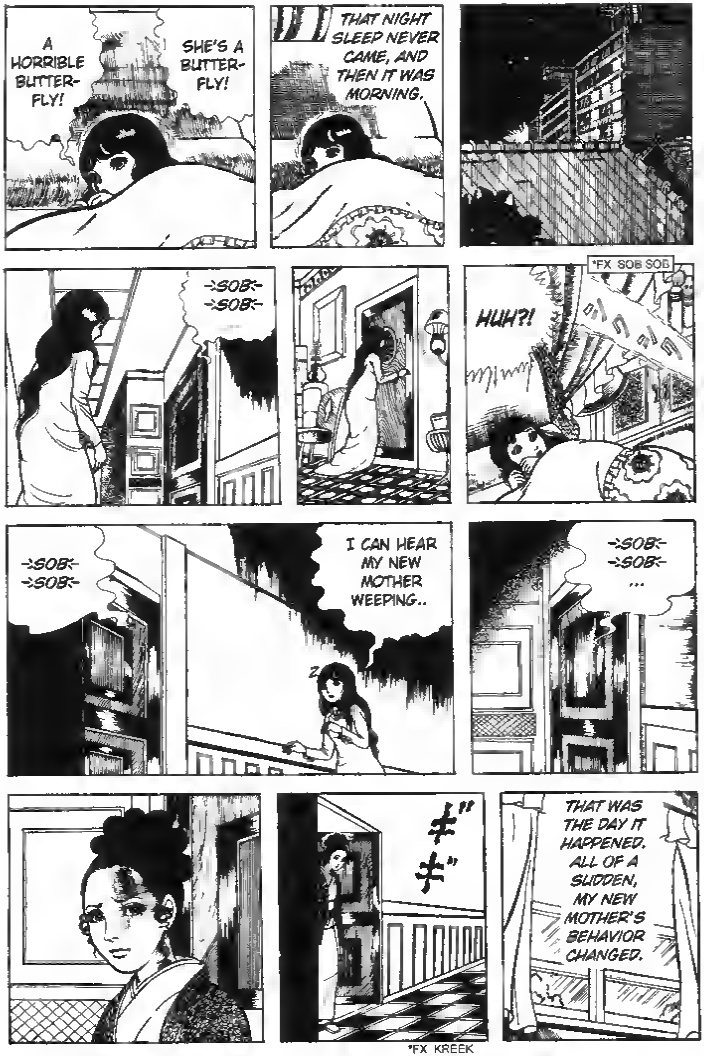

EEEEK!!
ガタン
*FX. THUNK
AAH!
EEEK!!
EEEK!!


*FX SLAM
*FX WHAM
HURRR
ガン
A BUTTERFLY . .
MY NEW MOTHER'S A BUTTERFLY!!
MEGUMI!
MEGUMI!!!
AAAH!
ガン ガン
*FX UHUH WHAM

*FX WHAM
AAAH!!
SHE'S A BUTTERFLY!!
MEGUMI! STOP IT!!
YOUNG MISS!
HUH--?!
YOUNG MISS!!

MEGUMI, H-HOW COULD YOU BE SUCH A WICKED CHILD...
AAH!
Y-YOUNG MISS!
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! DOES SHE LOOK LIKE A BUTTERFLY?!
YOU'RE A BUTTER-FLY!
GET OUT OF HERE!
MEGUMI! NOW APOLO-GIZE!

MEGUMI...
AAAAH!!
FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I WILL NEVER FORGET THE PALE FACE OF THAT WOMAN-- I DARED TO CALL MY NEW MOTHER "THAT WOMAN"-- AT THAT MOMENT.
MISTRESS!
A BUTTERFLY ...

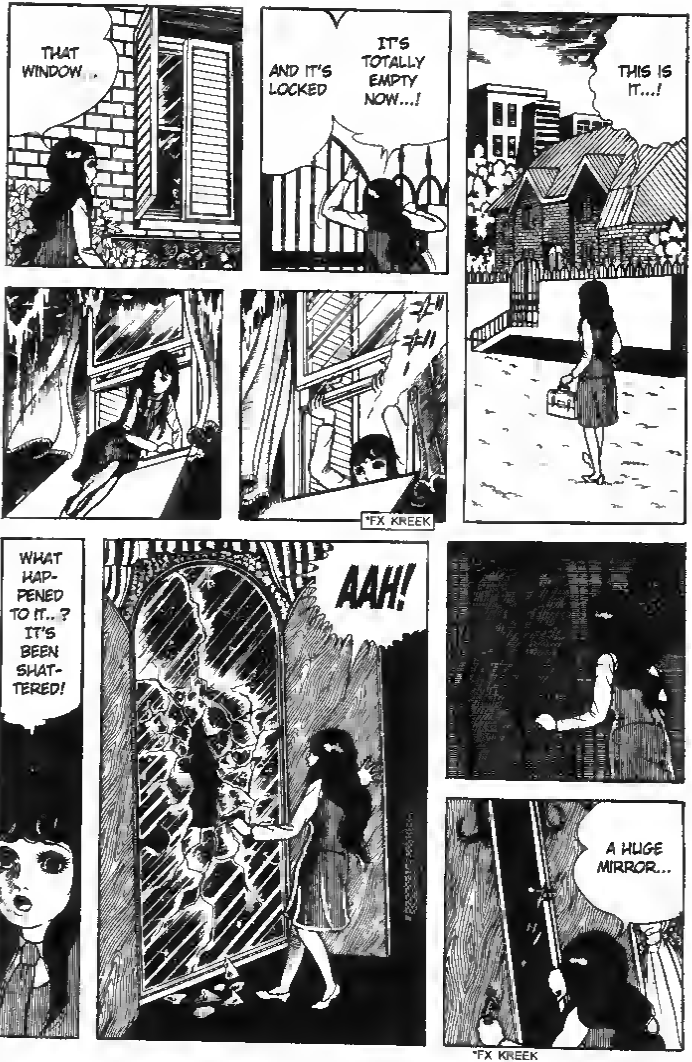

A HORRIBLE BUTTER-FLY!
SHE'S A BUTTER-FLY!
THAT NIGHT SLEEP NEVER CAME, AND THEN IT WAS MORNING.
-SOB-
-SOB-
*FX SOB SOB
HUH?!
-SOB-
-SOB-
I CAN HEAR MY NEW MOTHER WEEPING..
-SOB-
-SOB-
...
*FX KREEK
THAT WAS THE DAY IT HAPPENED. ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY NEW MOTHER'S BEHAVIOR CHANGED.

WHY?! WHY IS THAT CHILD SO SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES?!
HAS SHE ..BEEN TALKING ABOUT BUTTERFLIES AGAIN?
THE CHILD'S GONE MAD!
DEAR, YOU HAVE TO PUT MEGUMI IN A HOSPITAL! PLEASE!
I'M SORRY... IT TRULY IS A BIZARRE ILLNESS. I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE HER TO A SPECIALIST SOMETIME, TOO..
THE CHILD IS INSANE!
I BEG YOU!
THE GIRL IS CRAZY!
PLEASE CALL THEM RIGHT AWAY!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S SCARY!
I AM NOT INSANE!
*FX KLIK
PLEASE!!

.. THEY'LL PUT ME IN AN INSTITUTION!
IF I DON'T FIND OUT WHAT HER STORY IS...
*FX SHRRK
F-FROM WHO...?
OKANOUE! YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL!
MEGUMI!
HELLO...?
IT'S YOUR MOTHER!
TELL ME WHY!
WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THAT BLACK BUTTERFLY?!
LISTEN-- I WANT TO HEAR A STRAIGHT ANSWER!

*FX CHANG
YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING!
YOU LIE!
I-- I DON'T KNOW...
SOON IT WAS TIME FOR THAT DAY'S LUNCH...
I DON'T KNOW WHY! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
UKK--!!
HAK--!!

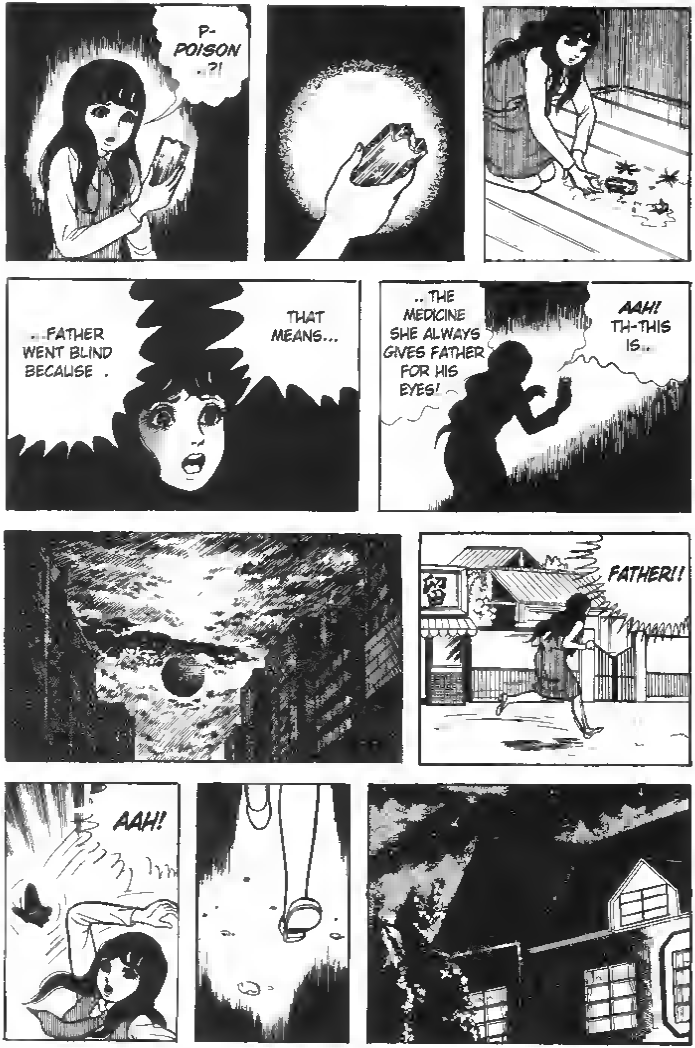
WH-WHAT IF...
A SPECI-MEN PIN...?!
AIEEE!!
EEEEK!!
I'M SURE FATHER SAID IT WAS AROUND HERE.
THE HOUSE SHE USED TO LIVE IN...
I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TO ANYBODY! IF I DO, THEY'LL THINK I'M PSYCHOTIC.. THEY'LL ALL BELIEVE HER INSTEAD..
SHE DID THAT TO ME!
ゴー"
*FX VOOM


THAT WINDOW...
AND IT'S LOCKED
IT'S TOTALLY EMPTY NOW...!
THIS IS IT...!
*FX KREEK
WHAT HAP-PENED TO IT...? IT'S BEEN SHAT-TERED!
AAH!
A HUGE MIRROR...
*FX KREEK

*FX SLAM
AAH!
AAAH!!
A BUTTERFLY!!
EEEEK!!
EEEK!!
AAAH!

SAVE ME!!
AAH!
UGH!
FX WHAM
MEGUMI, WHAT A WICKED CHILD YOU ARE!!
IT'S ME!
YES!
MOTHER!!
AAH!!
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN YEARNING FOR THIS DAY?! AND YET YOU.
I WON'T LET YOU RUIN THE LOVE I'VE WORKED MY WHOLE LIFE TO WIN!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH-- I'LL USE YOUR NOSE!
HOHO! IT'S NO USE!
MMPH!
*FX URK
TAKE THAT!
GAH!
*FX KRASH
AAH!
-HAHN-
-HAHN-
*FX CHAK
HRR...


P-POISON..?!
...FATHER WENT BLIND BECAUSE .
THAT MEANS...
..THE MEDICINE SHE ALWAYS GIVES FATHER FOR HIS EYES!
AAH! TH-THIS IS..
FATHER!!
AAH!

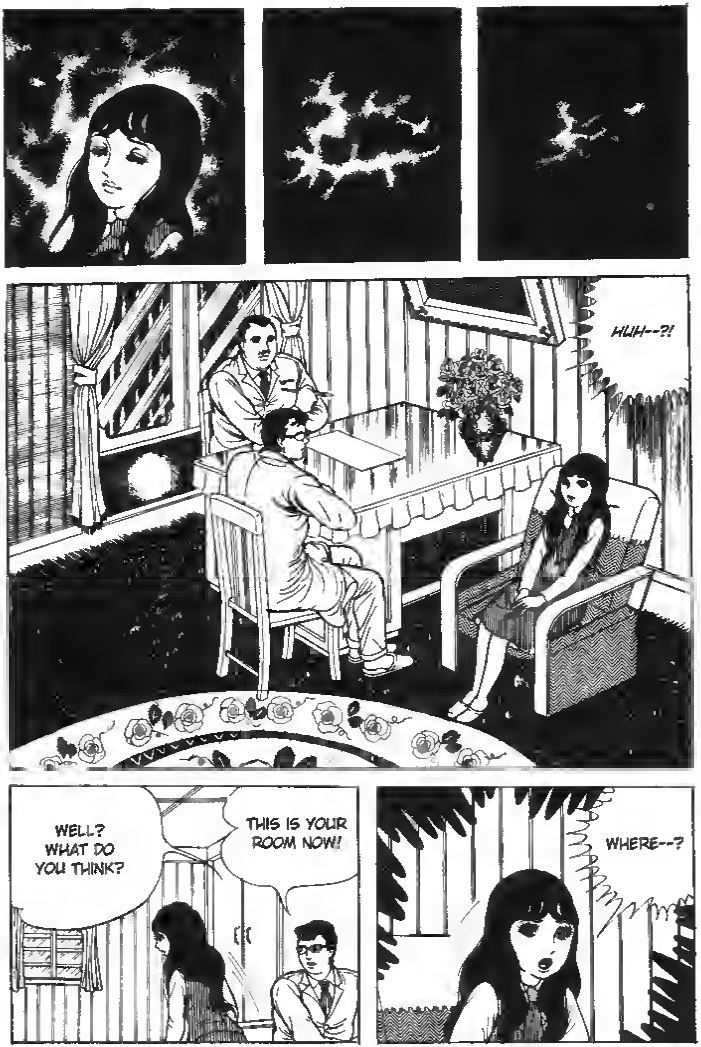
*car YAMADA MENTAL
AAH!
EEEK!
A BUTTERFLY FLYING AROUND ME!!
A HOSPITAL CAR!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

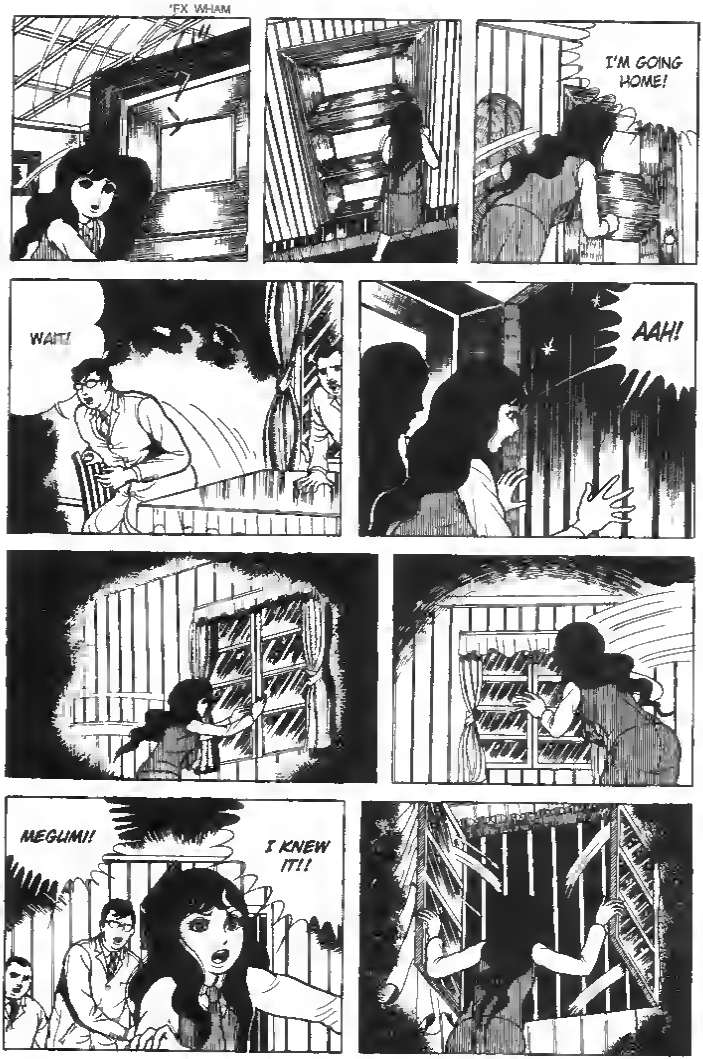
WH--
WHO ARE YOU?!
MISS!
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?!
WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME WITH US, PLEASE
AAH!
L-LET GO OF ME, PLEASE!

THAT'S A LIE! SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE FATHER BLIND!!
THE GIRL IS TRYING TO KILL ME!
P-PLEASE TAKE HER AWAY NOW!
MOTHER!
BUTTERFLIES ARE EVIL! THEY'RE ILL OMENS! SHE... SHE'S SOMETHING HORRIBLE!!
A PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY!
SHE'S A BUTTERFLY!
THE GIRL'S GONE INSANE!
LET GO OF ME!

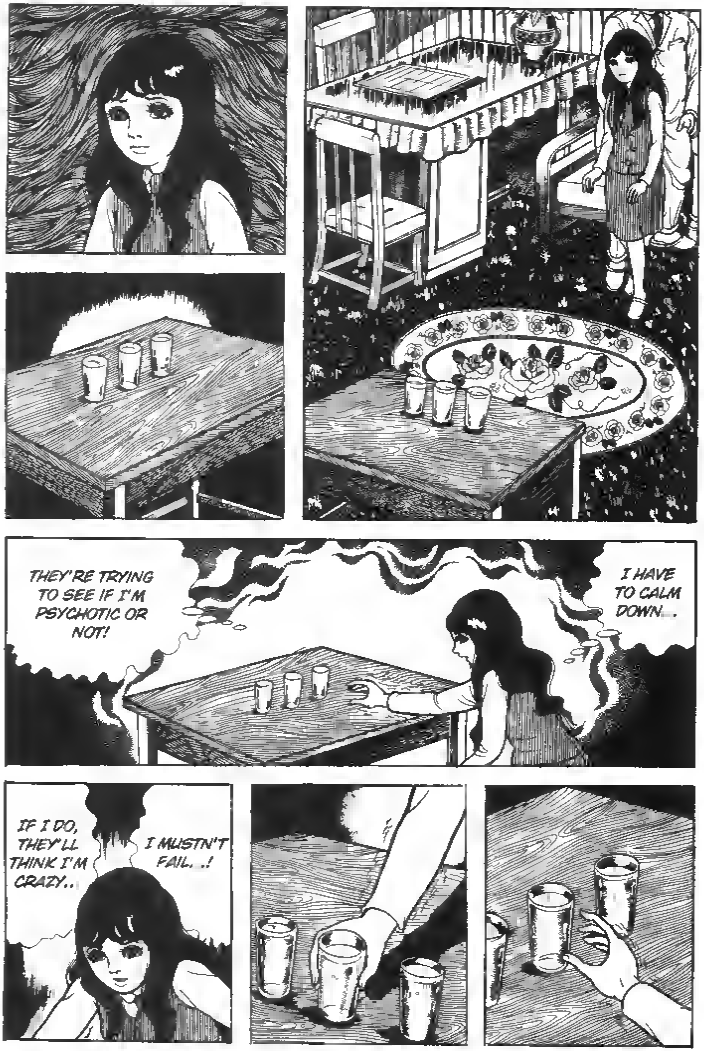
A HUGE, PITCH-BLACK BUTTER-FLY!
SHE'S A BUTTER-FLY!
EEEK!!
AAAH!!
*FX. EEEEK
A BUTTER-FLY!!
SAVE ME!!
AAH! A BUTTER-FLY!

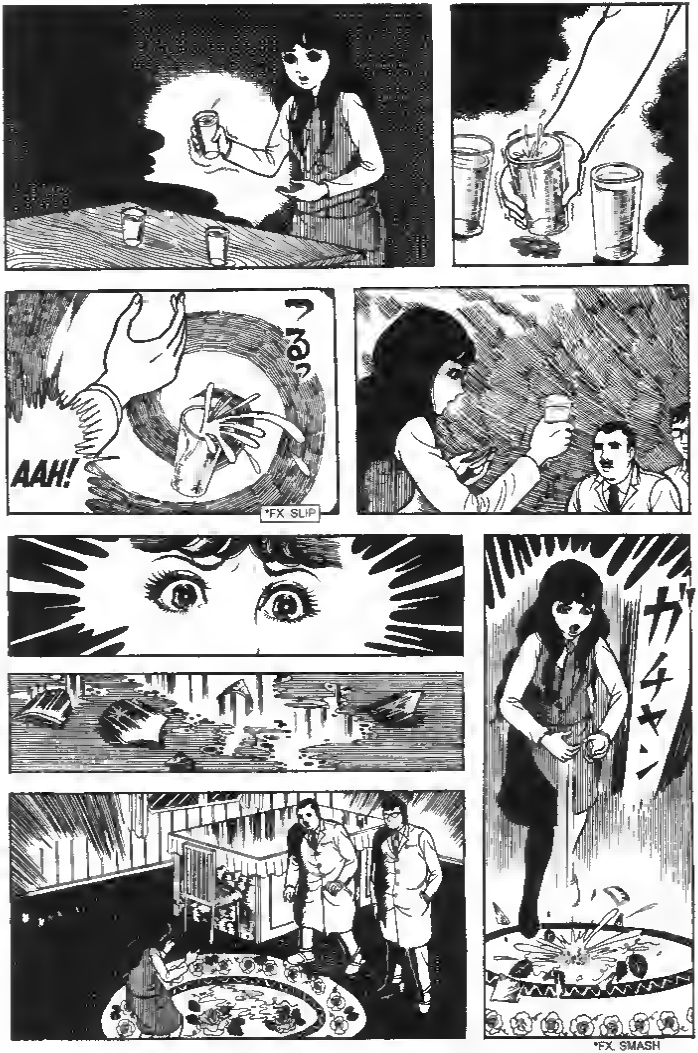
*FX VRRMM
*car: YAMADA MENTAL INSTITUTION
AAH!
CALM DOWN!
MMMF !!
MMF!
*FX SLAM
SHE'S GONE...!
THAT GIRL HAS GONE MAD!
I AM NOT A BUTTERFLY!
I AM NOT A BUTTERFLY!


HUH--?!
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS YOUR ROOM NOW!
WHERE--?


*FX WHAM
I'M GOING HOME!
WAIT!
AAH!
MEGUMI!
I KNEW IT!!

A MENTAL INSTITUTION!
OKAY, HAVE A SEAT HERE. EVERYBODY HAS SUCH ENTANGLED FEELINGS TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER. SO PLEASE JUST RELAX AND ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS. WE'RE DOING THIS FOR *YOUR* BENEFIT.
YES, THIS *IS* A MENTAL INSTITUTION, BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR. OUR JOB IS TO UNTANGLE THE MIXED-UP THREADS IN YOUR MIND.
PLEASE CALM DOWN. LET'S TALK.
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE GONE INSANE?
I DON'T KNOW!
WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF BUTTERFLIES?
OKAY, PLEASE CALM DOWN, AND GO GET ME THAT MIDDLE CUP FROM OVER THERE.
PLEASE TELL ME!
I FEAR BUTTERFLIES SO VERY MUCH! I ALWAYS WONDER WHY, BUT EVEN I DON'T KNOW THE REASON!


THEY'RE TRYING TO SEE IF I'M PSYCHOTIC OR NOT!
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN....
IF I DO, THEY'LL THINK I'M CRAZY..
I MUSTN'T FAIL..!


AAH!
*FX. SLIP
ガチャン
*FX. SMASH

DON'T WORRY. THIS TIME, I'D LIKE YOU TO BRING ME THE CUP ON THE RIGHT, PLEASE.
THIS TIME I'LL BE SURE TO HOLD IT TIGHT...
STEP BY STEP, YOU'RE GOING BACK INTO THE PAST, REMEMBERING...
YOU CAN SEE YOUR PAST REFLECTED IN THE WATER IN THE CUP

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF THEM.
I DON'T KNOW..
WHEN DID YOUR FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES BEGIN?
PLEASE ANSWER MY QUESTIONS
I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE BUTTERFLIES ARE EVIL—THE EMBODIMENT OF EVIL..
WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM?
I CAN HEAR SOMEONE'S VOICE...
YOU'RE NOW REMEMBERING BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE VERY LITTLE, WHEN YOU WERE FIRST AWARE... WHAT HAPPENED? PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU REMEMBER.

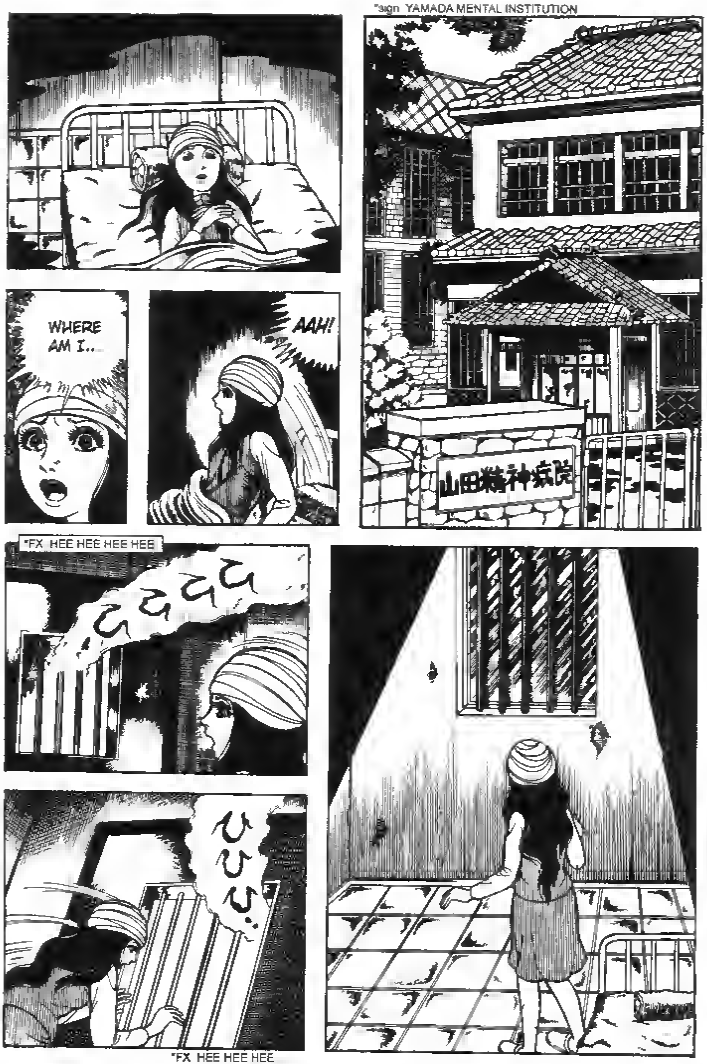
I'M CRYING... I CRY ALL THE TIME THESE DAYS...
IT'S A LULLABY. OUR NANNY'S LULLABY.
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
YOUR MOTHER DIED, DIDN'T SHE...? LET'S GO BACK, BACK TO THAT DAY.
..AND I SO MISS HER. . IT MAKES ME CRY...
MOTHER ISN'T HERE...
I CAN'T REMEMBER
LOOK OUT! YOU'LL FALL! AAH! MOTHER IS SCREAMING!!
AAH! MOTHER HAS SUDDENLY TAKEN ME IN HER ARMS AND IS LEANING AGAINST THE EDGE OF THE VERANDA!
A BUTTER-FLY!

SUDDENLY, A GIANT, PITCH-BLACK BUTTERFLY IS IN FRONT OF ME!!
キャあーっ
*FX EEEEK!
WE'RE FALLING!!
AAH!!
カサッ
*FX SMASH
MEGUMI!!

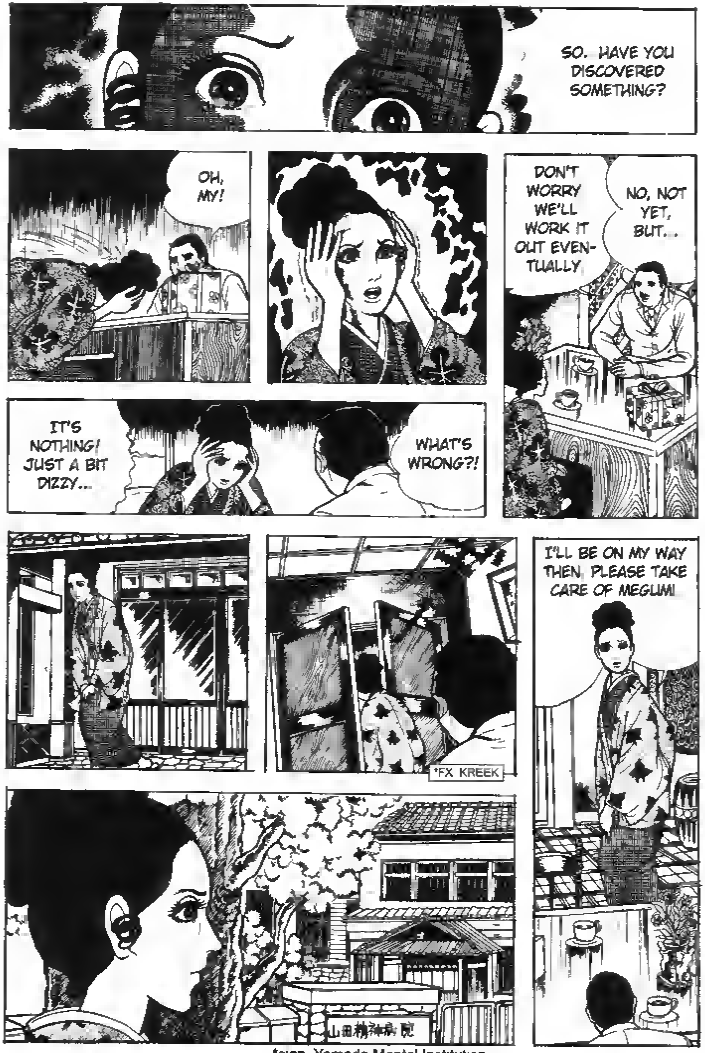
MEGUMI!
AAH!!

WH-WHAT JUST HAPPENED?! SHE ONLY FELL OVER-- BUT THAT WOUND...
HER MEMORIES MUST BE SEVERELY INTENSE, NO DOUBT!
MEGUMI!!
FALLING OFF THE VERANDA UNDER HYPNOSIS GAVE HER THE SAME WOUND AS ACTUALLY FALLING OFF THE VERANDA...
MEDICINE AND BANDAGES! HURRY!
RIGHT AWAY!
HNN...
SO SCARED!!
AAH!

EEEK!!
MEGU-MI!
*FX TREMBLE TREMBLE
SO SCARED OF BUTTER-FLIES!
SO SCARED!
HURRY! THE TRANQUILIZER
*FX KSS
ブッ
HER PSYCHOLOGICAL DERANGEMENT IS CONSIDERABLE!

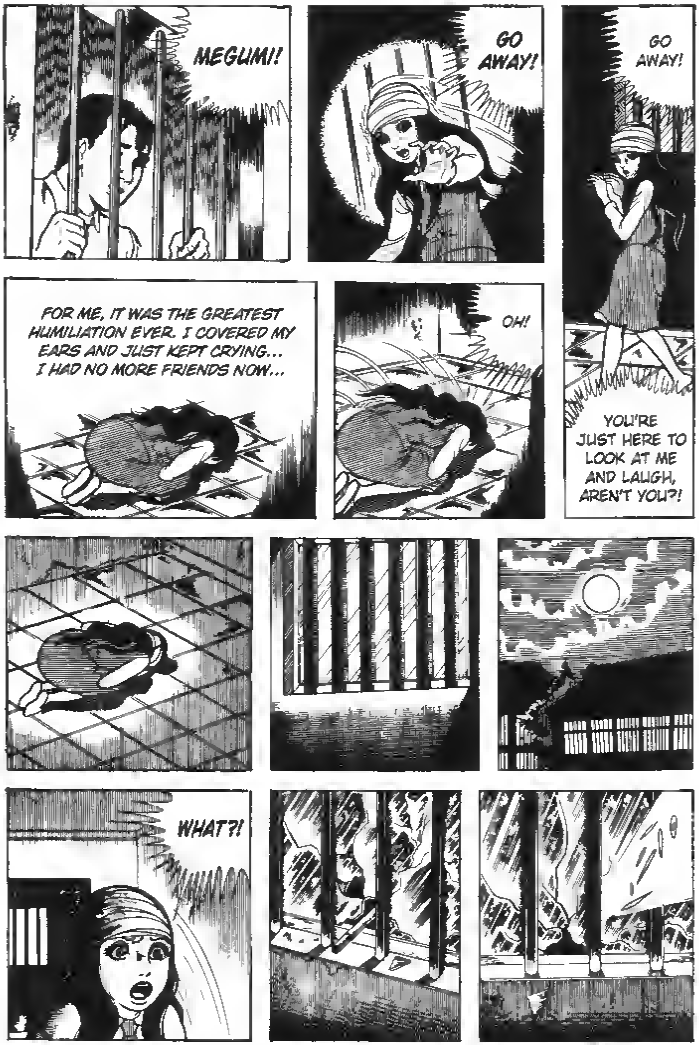

*sign YAMADA MENTAL INSTITUTION
山田精神病院
WHERE AM I...
AAH!
*FX HEE HEE HEE HEE
ひひひ
ひひひ
*FX HEE HEE HEE

*FX HA HA HA
*FX HEE HEE HEE HEE
*FX HEH HEH HEH
LET ME OUT, PLEASE!
LET ME OUT!
NO, QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
MEGUMI'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE BUTTERFLIES, RIGHT?
YES, BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL WE DISCOVER THE *CAUSE* OF IT.
WH-WHY?! ARE YOU...ARE YOU SAYING MEGUMI WILL NEVER GET BETTER?! WE PUT HER IN HERE TO CURE HER CONDITION!

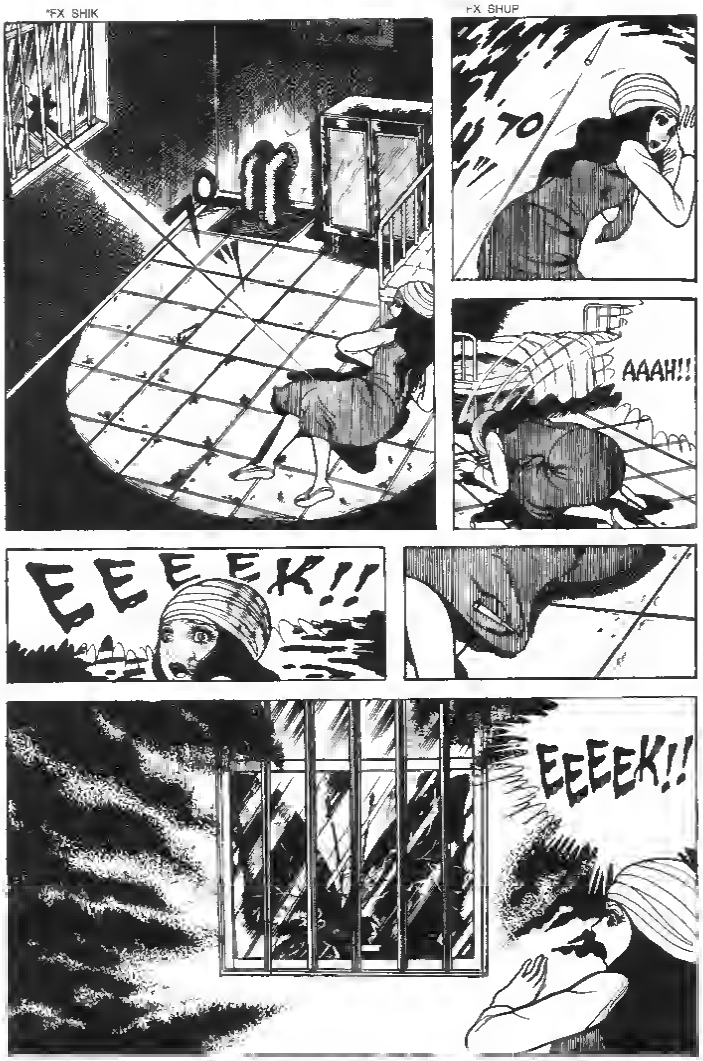

SO. HAVE YOU DISCOVERED SOMETHING?
OH, MY!
DON'T WORRY WE'LL WORK IT OUT EVENTUALLY
NO, NOT YET, BUT...
IT'S NOTHING! JUST A BIT DIZZY...
WHAT'S WRONG?!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MEGUMI
*FX KREEK
山田精神病院

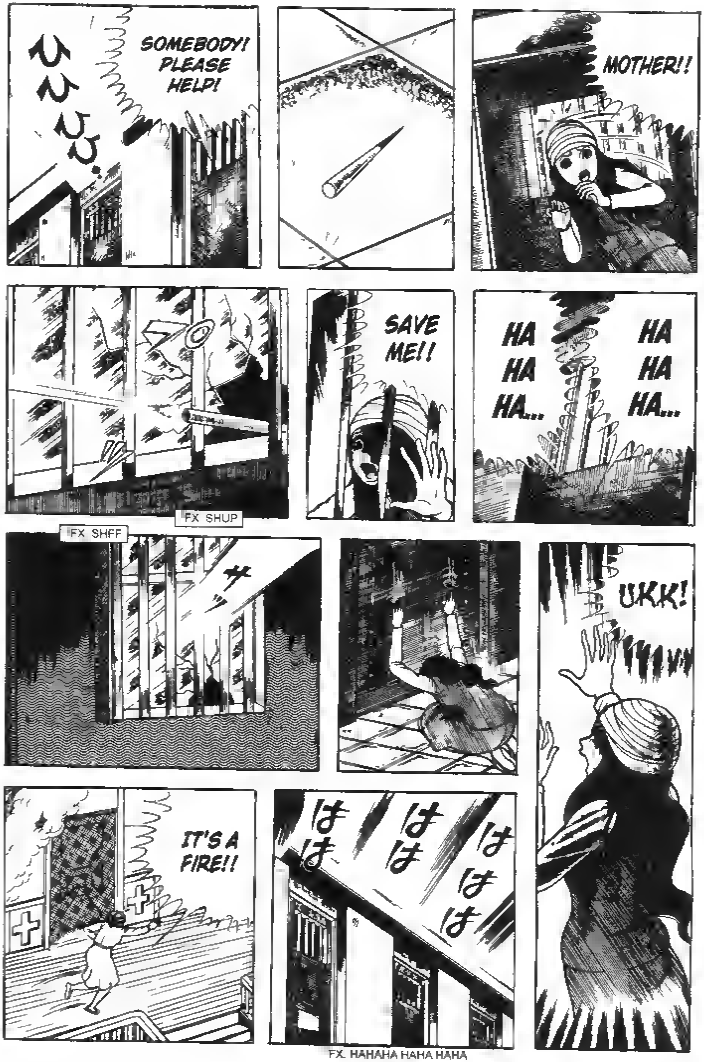
*sign Yamada Mental Institution

WH-WHO'S THERE?!
HUH--?!
FX KACHAK
MEANWHILE, I SCREAMED AND CRIED TO EXHAUSTION... BUT THE ONLY THING I COULDN'T CRY OUT WAS THAT I WASN'T SICK. WHATEVER CONFIDENCE I'D HAD THAT I WASN'T INSANE HAD BEEN SHATTERED INTO PIECES.
KOSEI!
MEGUMI!
AAH!
THE DIRECTOR HERE IS MY UNCLE. YOUR MOTHER WAS JUST HERE AND THEN LEFT AGAIN.
SO IT IS YOU. I HEARD THERE WAS A PATIENT HERE WITH A BUTTERFLY PHOBIA...


MEGUMI!
GO AWAY!
GO AWAY!
YOU'RE JUST HERE TO LOOK AT ME AND LAUGH, AREN'T YOU?!
FOR ME, IT WAS THE GREATEST HUMILIATION EVER. I COVERED MY EARS AND JUST KEPT CRYING... I HAD NO MORE FRIENDS NOW...
OH!
WHAT?!
FX: KRAK

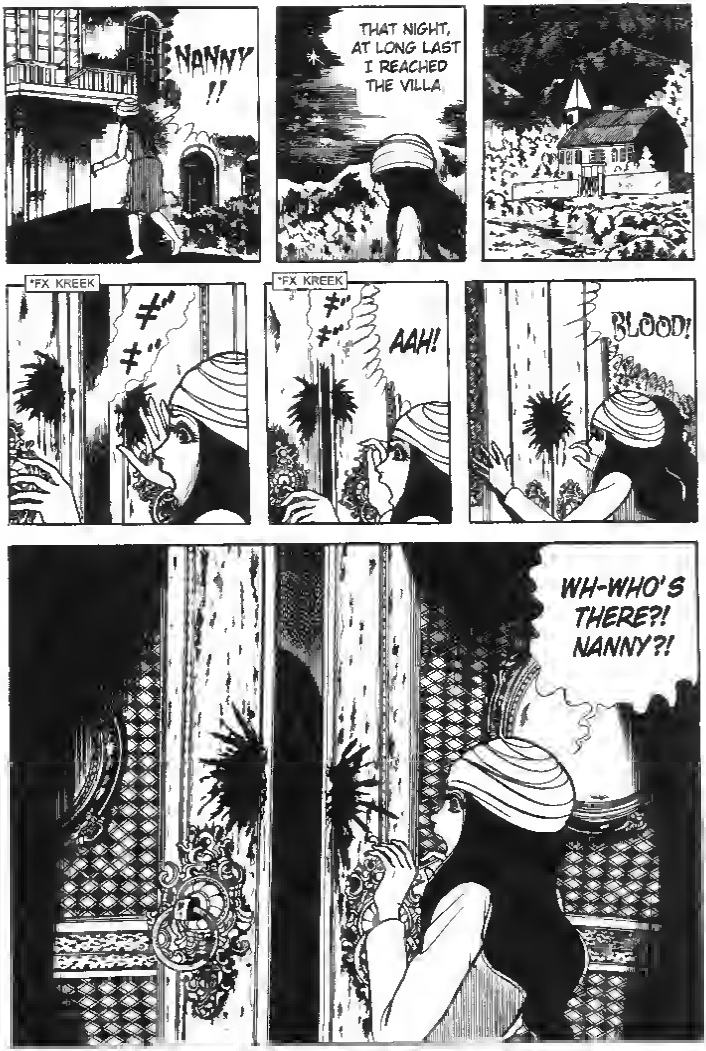
*FX SHIK!
アッス！
H-
HELP!!
AAH!


*FX SHIK
*FX SHUP
AAAH!!
EEEEK!!
EEEEK!!

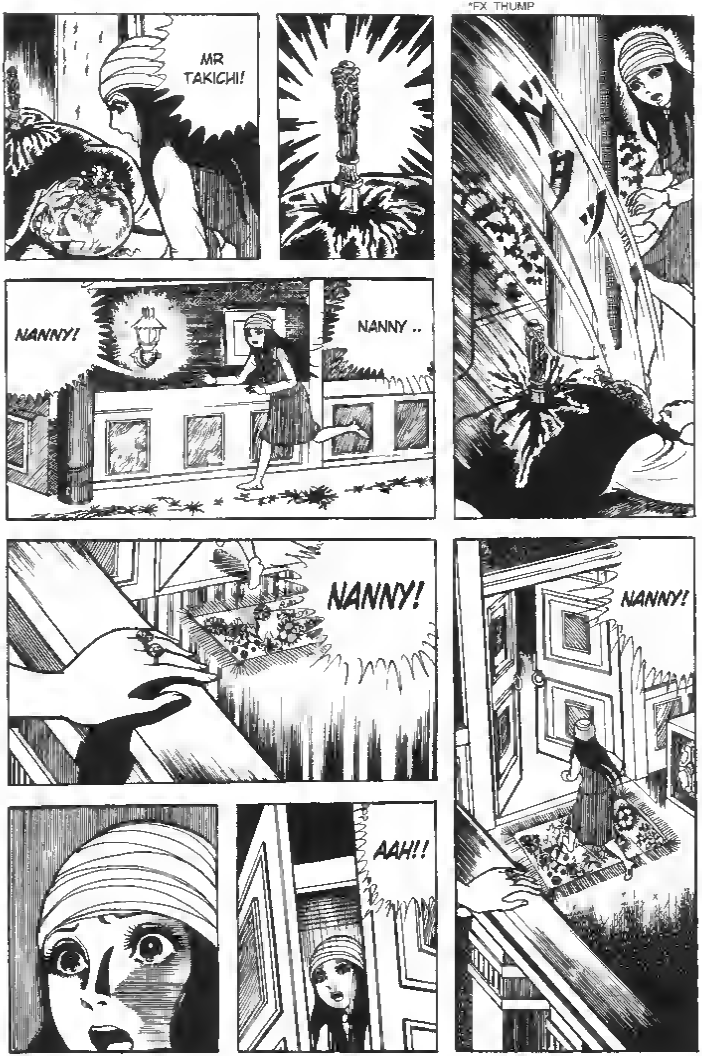

*FX. HEEHEEHEEHEE
SOMEBODY! PLEASE HELP!
MOTHER!!
SAVE ME!!
HA HA HA...
HA HA HA...
*FX. SHUP
*FX. SHFF
UKK!
IT'S A FIRE!!
はは はは はは
F.X. HAHAHA HAHA HAHA

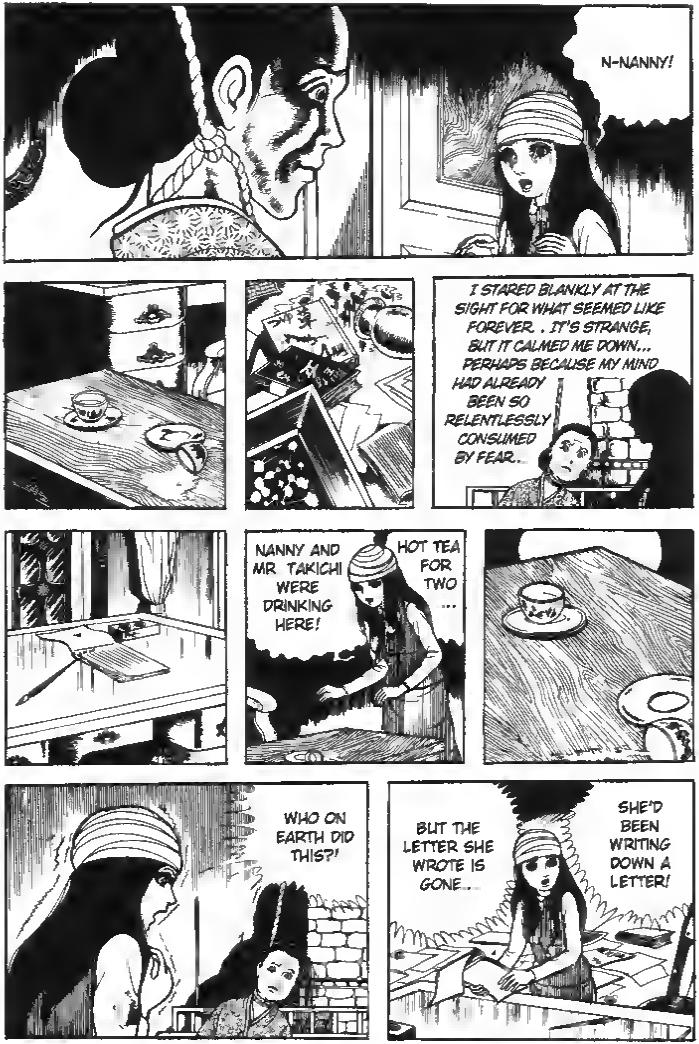
*FX ROAAR
FIRE!!
ゴオ
GONE...
MY NEW MOTHER IS TRYING TO BURN ME TO DEATH...!
I HAD INSTINCTIVELY PLAYED DEAD. I REALIZED MUCH LATER THAT FOR SOME ANIMALS THIS WAS A SELF-DEFENSE MECHANISM.
I KNEW IT.. WITH THE TIP DIPPED IN POISON!
A BLOW DART...

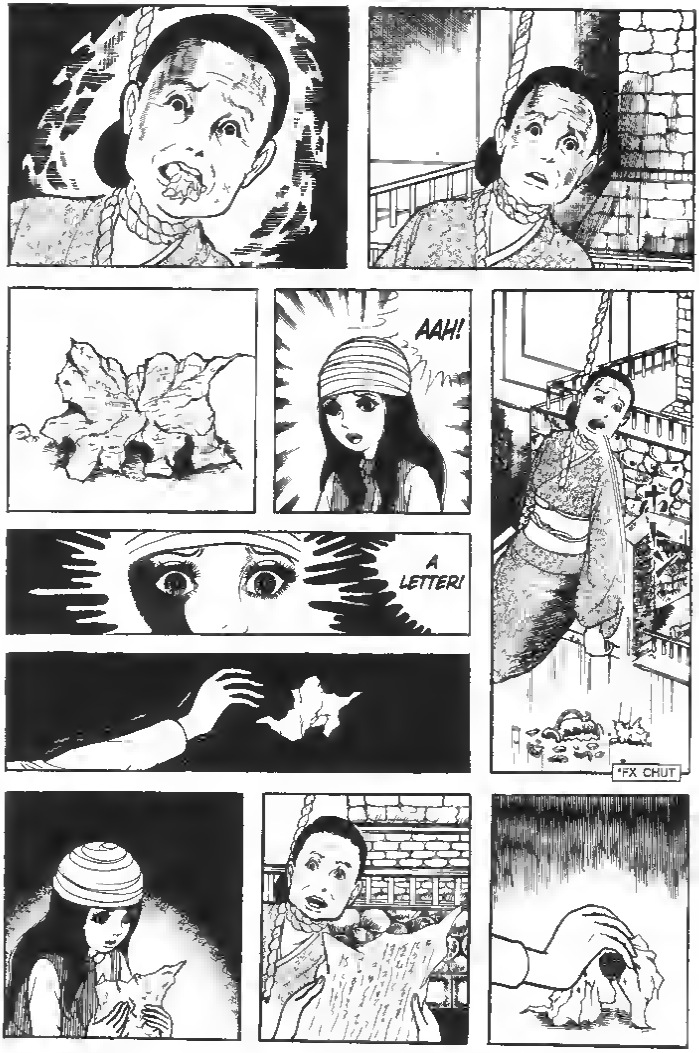
*FX KLANK
OH!
ガタン
AAAH!!
KOFF KOFF
IF I'M FOUND, THEY'LL LOCK ME UP. .
-HAH-
-HAH-
I RAN IN A DAZE, AND WHEN I FINALLY CAME TO MY SENSES...
..TO MY MOTHER'S GRAVE.
MY FEET WERE CARRYING ME IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLA...

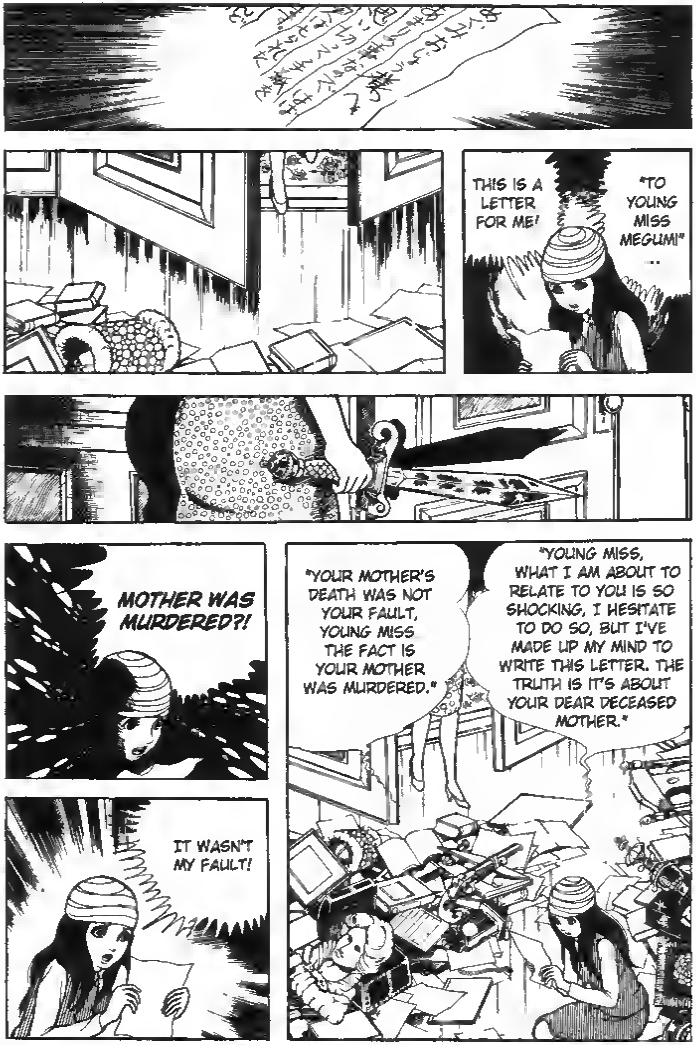

NANNY !!
THAT NIGHT, AT LONG LAST I REACHED THE VILLA
*FX KREEK
*FX KREEK
AAH!
BLOOD!
WH-WHO'S THERE?! NANNY?!

YAAH!!
MR. TAKICHI!
EEEK!!


MR TAKICHI!
*FX THUMP
ドヨッ
NANNY!
NANNY ..
NANNY!
NANNY!
AAH!!

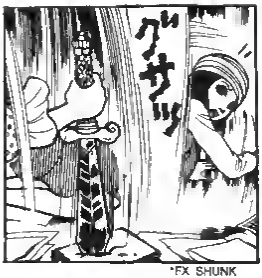

N-NANNY!
I STARED BLANKLY AT THE SIGHT FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER. IT'S STRANGE, BUT IT CALMED ME DOWN... PERHAPS BECAUSE MY MIND HAD ALREADY BEEN SO RELENTLESSLY CONSUMED BY FEAR...
NANNY AND MR. TAKICHI WERE DRINKING HERE!
HOT TEA FOR TWO ...
WHO ON EARTH DID THIS?!
BUT THE LETTER SHE WROTE IS GONE...
SHE'D BEEN WRITING DOWN A LETTER!


AAH!
A LETTER!
*FX CHUT


THIS IS A LETTER FOR ME!
"TO YOUNG MISS MEGUMI" ...
MOTHER WAS MURDERED?!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
"YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH WAS NOT YOUR FAULT, YOUNG MISS THE FACT IS YOUR MOTHER WAS MURDERED."
"YOUNG MISS, WHAT I AM ABOUT TO RELATE TO YOU IS SO SHOCKING, I HESITATE TO DO SO, BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO WRITE THIS LETTER. THE TRUTH IS IT'S ABOUT YOUR DEAR DECEASED MOTHER."

"THE WOMAN WHO KILLED YOUR MOTHER RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE TODAY."
"TAKICHI IS MUTE AND CANNOT READ OR WRITE, BUT TODAY, USING HAND GESTURES AND BODY LANGUAGE, HE FINALLY COMMUNICATED SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ME .."
"I LEARNED FROM TAKICHI, THE GROUNDS-KEEPER, THAT HE WITNESSED THE MOMENT OF YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH."
".. WELL, IT SEEMS CLEAR NOW IT WAS THIS SAME WOMAN."
"AND THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT.. THE PERSON WHO VANDALIZED YOUR DECEASED MOTHER'S GRAVESTONE..."
BUT IT WOULD SEEM WHEN YOUR MOTHER FELL FROM THE VERANDA, THIS WOMAN ACTUALLY PUSHED HER OVER."
"AT THE TIME OF YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH, YOU WERE JUST A TINY BABY AND WOULD HAVE NO MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED,
"THINKING ON IT NOW, I WONDER IF THIS WOMAN MUST HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT AS WELL."
"DURING HER LIFETIME, YOUR MOTHER WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF SOMEONE'S SHADOW LURKING OVER HER.."
"YOUNG MISS, THIS WOMAN OF WHOM I SPEAK IS NONE OTHER THAN YOUR NEW MOTHER."

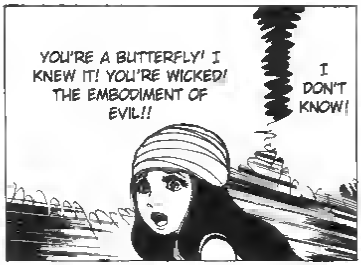
"HE COULD TELL JUST BY HER STRIKING BEAUTY THAT IT WAS CLEARLY--"
AAH!
". . AND HE LET ME KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT IT WAS HER."
"HAVING SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE STORY, I SHOWED A PICTURE OF YOUR NEW MOTHER TO TAKICHI. . ."

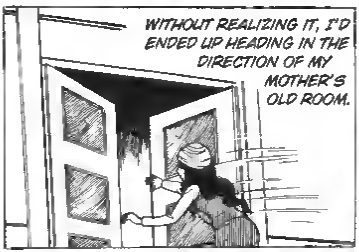


*FX SHUNK

*FX SHISH

WHY?! WHY DID YOU KILL MY MOTHER?!
AND YOU KILLED NANNY AND MR. TAKICHI, DIDN'T YOU ..?
SO THAT LETTER WAS ALL TRUE!
WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM?!
MEGUMI, WHY DID YOU CALL ME A BUTTERFLY?!
TELL ME WHY!!
WHY ?!
EEEK!!
*FX WHSHH
*FX CHUK


YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY! I KNEW IT! YOU'RE WICKED! THE EMBODIMENT OF EVIL!!
I DON'T KNOW!


WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I'D ENDED UP HEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF MY MOTHER'S OLD ROOM.

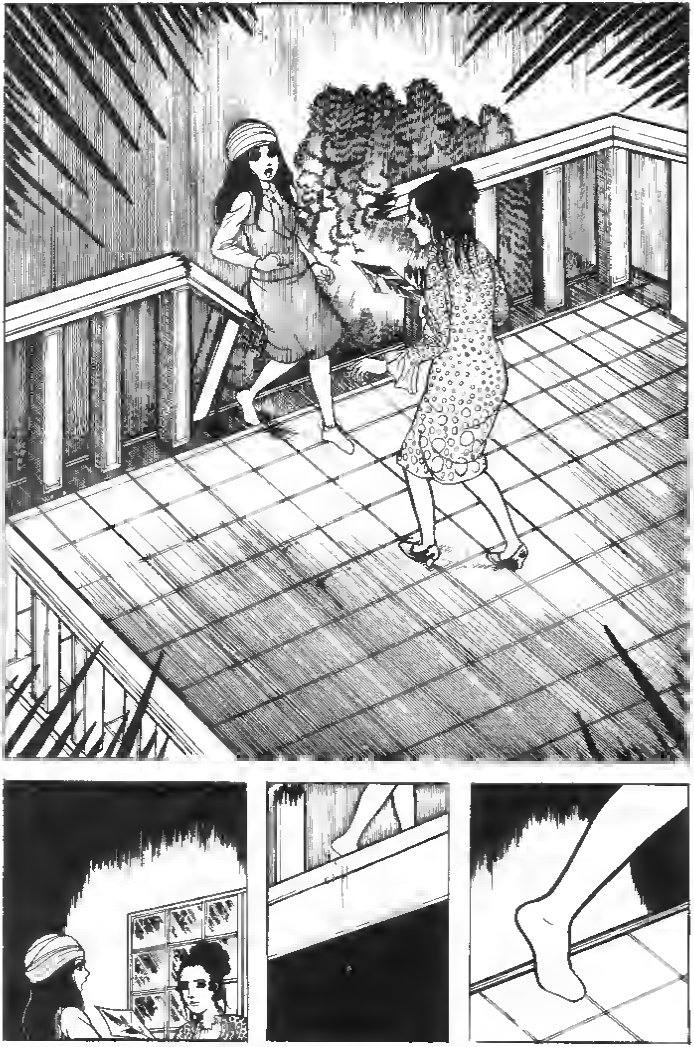
WHY?!

HOHOHO! NOW YOU'RE TRAPPED LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE!
HOHOHO! JUST LIKE IT WAS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO! I WAS STANDING RIGHT HERE, AND YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT WHERE YOUR MOTHER WAS...

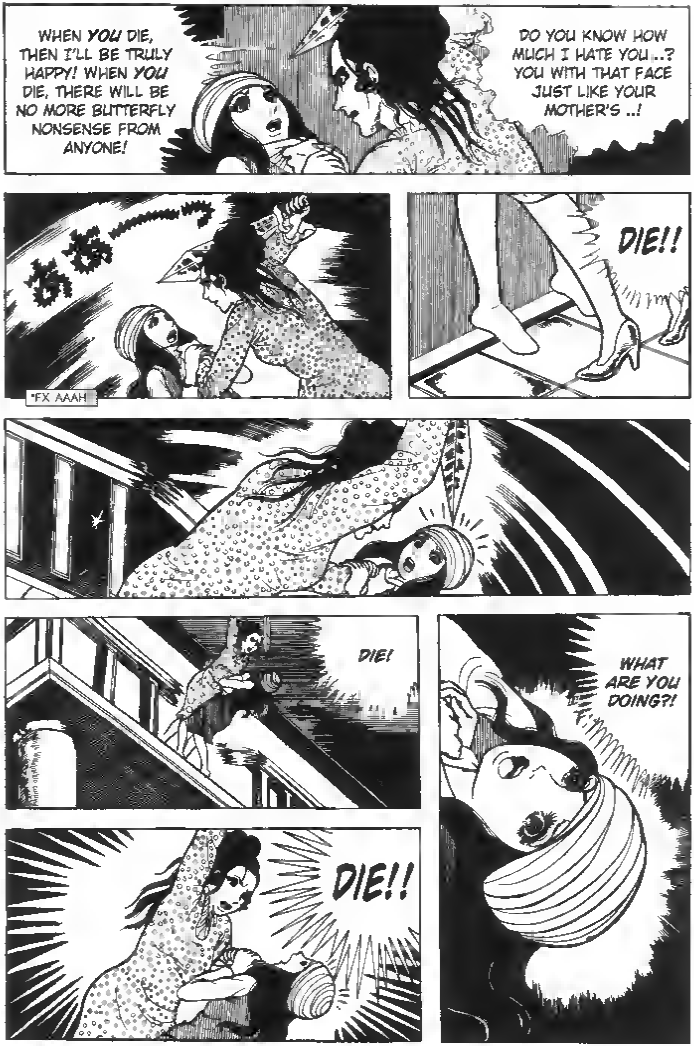
THERE'S ONLY ONE DIFFERENCE-- BACK THEN YOU WERE HOLDING A TINY BABY IN YOUR ARMS.
AND JUST LIKE BACK THEN, YOU WERE BACKING UP TOWARDS THE VERANDA... SO SCARED YOU COULDN'T EVEN CRY OUT...
AND YOUR EXPRESSION IS THE SAME AS HERS WAS, TOO.. AND I'VE GOT THE SAME EXPRESSION I HAD ON MY FACE, STANDING HERE WITH A KNIFE IN MY HAND...
HOW VERY PECULIAR.. YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY THE SAME FACE YOUR MOTHER HAD BACK THEN.. THAT FACE THAT SICKENS ME SO!
STEP BY STEP, SHE WAS CORNERING ME BACK TOWARDS THE VERANDA...
WHY... WHY DID YOU KILL HER..?!
ほほほほ

*FX HOHOHOHO

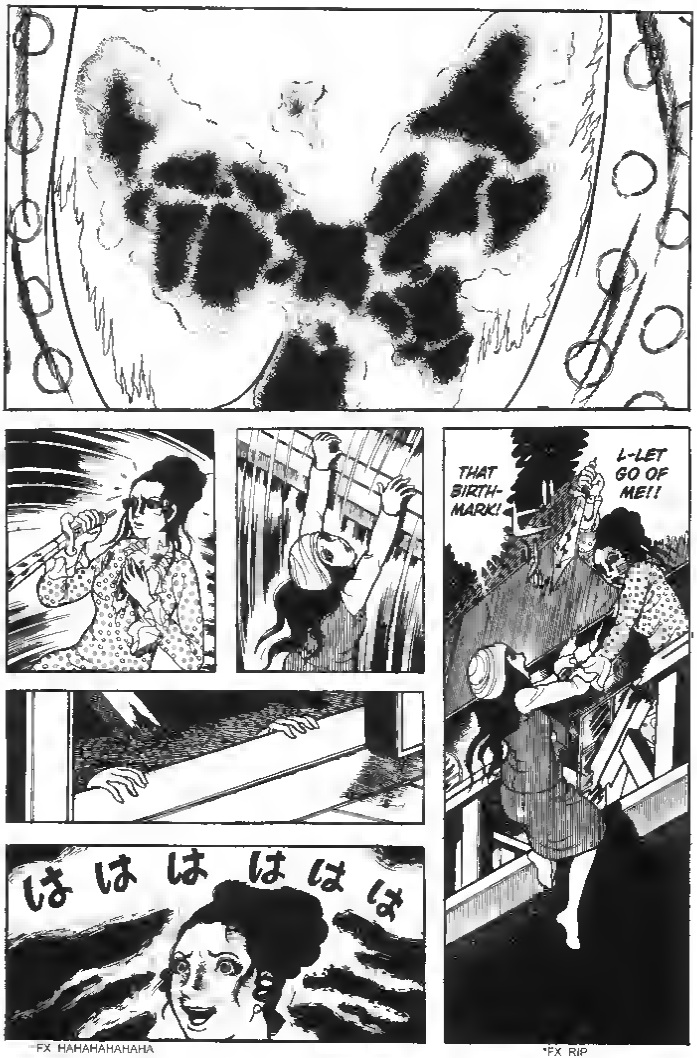
OH, HOW I SUFFERED.. A SADNESS NO ONE ELSE COULD EVER UNDERSTAND... NO ONE!
BUT IT WAS MY FATE THAT THE MORE I LOVED HIM, THE MORE HE PUSHED ME AWAY.
BECAUSE I LOVED YOUR FATHER! NO-- BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HIM... AS I STILL LOVE HIM TO THIS DAY!
BECAUSE I HATED YOUR MOTHER!
BUT THAT WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T BEAR! I TRIED TELLING YOUR MOTHER TO GET OUT OF OUR LIVES, BUT SHE JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN! AND SO, THAT DAY..
FINALLY YOUR FATHER GREW TIRED OF ME AND TOOK YOUR MOTHER AS HIS BRIDE...
AND SO I WAS PUSHED OUT, LIKE MY DECEASED MOTHER, TO THE SAME PLACE, IN THE SAME WAY, TO THE EDGE OF THE VERANDA..



BACK THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, YOUR MOTHER WAS EDGING BACKWARDS WITH YOU IN HER ARMS! AND THEN SHE FELL THROUGH THE RAIL TO HER DEATH!
IT'S ALL THE SAME AS IT WAS BACK THEN! EVERY BIT OF IT!
AAAH!
AAH!
AND NOW YOU'LL DIE, TOO!
*FX GRAB
SO AFTER YOU DIE, EVERYTHING ENDS!
THERE'S ONLY ONE DIFFERENCE. YOU DON'T HAVE A LITTLE BABY IN YOUR ARMS!

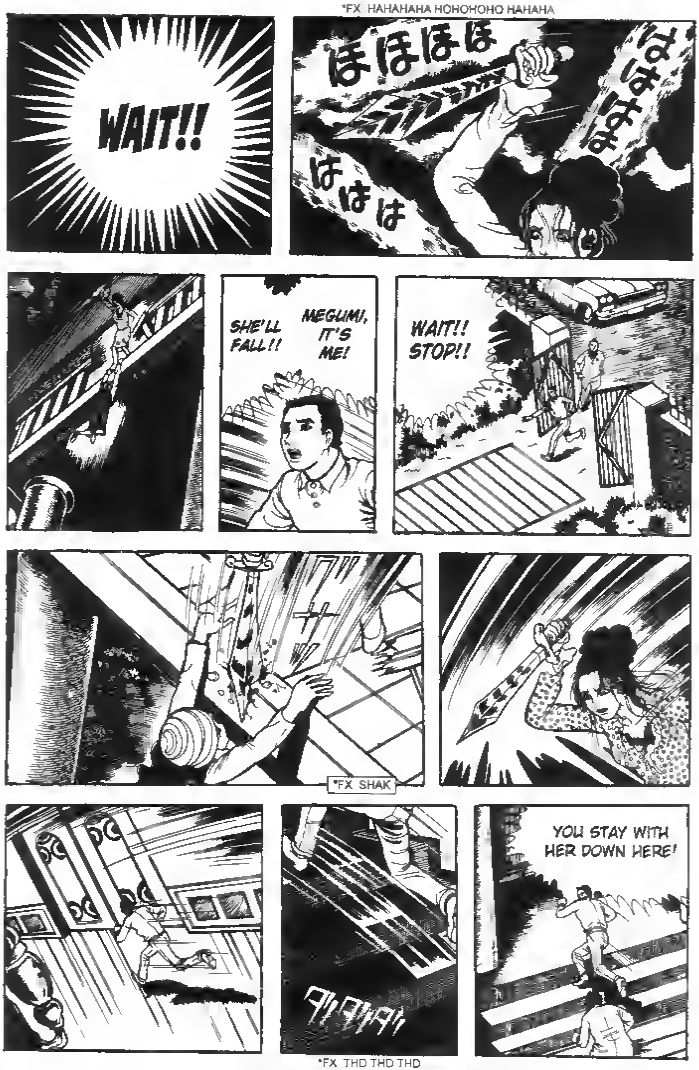

WHEN YOU DIE, THEN I'LL BE TRULY HAPPY! WHEN YOU DIE, THERE WILL BE NO MORE BUTTERFLY NONSENSE FROM ANYONE!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE YOU ..? YOU WITH THAT FACE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S ..!
*FX AAAH
DIE!!
DIE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DIE!!

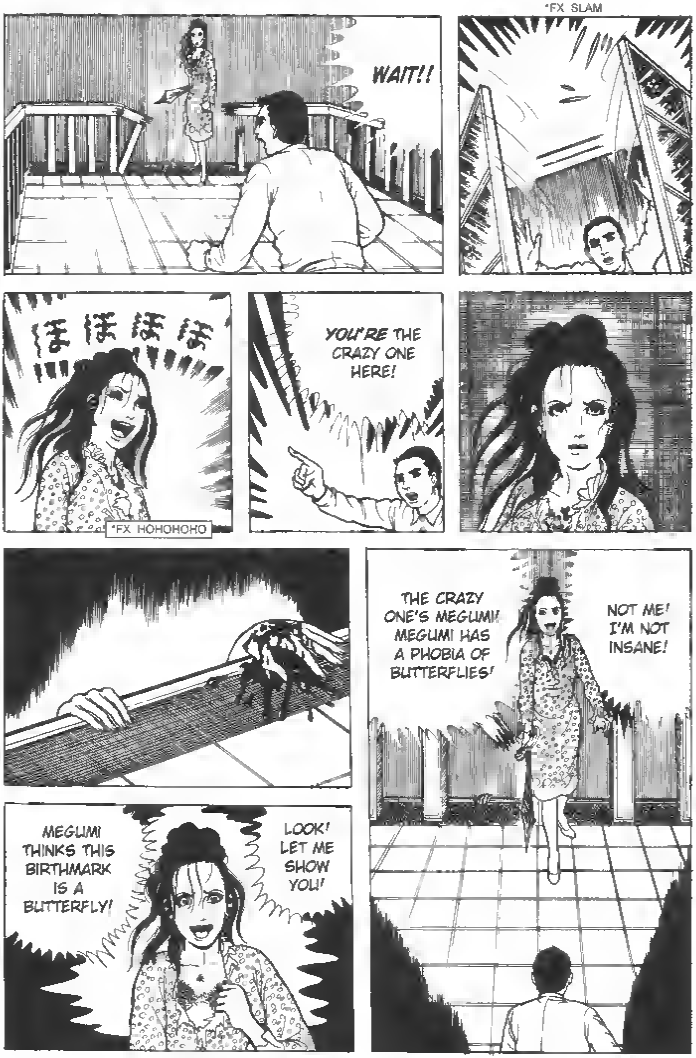
*FX SHOVE
ドン
URKK!
*FX SHRIP
ビリ
AAH!!
ビリビリ
*FX RRRIP


THAT BIRTH-MARK!
L-LET GO OF ME!!
はははははは
FX HAHAHAHAHAHA
FX RIP

YES, THIS BIRTHMARK...
YOU SAW MY BIRTHMARK BACK THEN, TOO!
*FX HAHAHAHA
FX HOHOHO
はははは
ほほほ
SHE GRABBED ONTO MY KIMONO AND TORE IT!
WHEN SHE FELL FROM THIS SPOT...
EVERY-THING EXACTLY THE SAME!
IT'S ALL THE SAME!
AND THEN YOU BOTH SAW MY BIRTHMARK!
MY BIRTHMARK IS SHAPED LIKE A BUTTERFLY!!
YOUR FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES IS BECAUSE THIS BIRTHMARK IS SHAPED LIKE A BUTTERFLY, ISN'T IT?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU'D REMEMBER IT!

*FX KRCH
AIEE!!
カッ
NOW, FALL TO YOUR DEATH!!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE! YOU HAVE TO FALL AND DIE HERE, TOO!
..BECAUSE SHE HAD TO HOLD YOU IN HER ARMS!
BACK THEN YOUR MOTHER NEVER HUNG ON TO THAT LEDGE..
あああーっ
*FX AAAAH
*FX SPTCH
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
おタおタ
*FX SPTCH SPTCH


*FX HAHAHAHA HOHOHOHO HAHAHA
WAIT!!
ほほほほ
はは
はは
はは
SHE'LL FALL!!
MEGUMI, IT'S ME!
WAIT!! STOP!!
*FX SHAK
YOU STAY WITH HER DOWN HERE!
*FX THD THD THD


WAIT!!
*FX SLAM
ほほほほ
*FX HOHOHOHO
YOU'RE THE CRAZY ONE HERE!
THE CRAZY ONE'S MEGUMI! MEGUMI HAS A PHOBIA OF BUTTERFLIES!
NOT ME! I'M NOT INSANE!
MEGUMI THINKS THIS BIRTHMARK IS A BUTTERFLY!
LOOK! LET ME SHOW YOU!

MY BIRTHMARK! IT'S SHAPED LIKE A BUTTERFLY.. MY BIRTH-MARK!
LOOK! LOOK! LET ME SHOW YOU!
WHA...
ESPECIALLY THE ONES I LOVED! I COULD NEVER LET THEM SEE IT!
I NEVER WANTED ANYONE TO SEE IT!
YES! THIS BIRTHMARK HAS RUINED MY WHOLE LIFE! IT'S STOPPED ME FROM BEING WITH THE ONES I LOVE! IT'S MADE ME A SAD WOMAN!
AAH!
OUT OF MY WAY!
MEGUMI!!
I'M A BUTTER-FLY!!
I'M A BUTTER-FLY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ? EVERYONE THOUGHT I'D LOST MY MIND AND--
KOSEI. .!
MEGUMI!
THAT'S NOT TRUE... WHEN I TALKED TO YOUR MOTHER ABOUT YOU, I GOT THE SENSE THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT HER SO WE HAD YOU ISOLATED TO PROTECT YOU FROM HER AND HOPED THAT IF WE COULD FIGURE OUT THE MYSTERY BEHIND YOUR BUTTERFLY PHOBIA, EVERYTHING ELSE WOULD BECOME CLEAR..
*FX HOHOHO HOHOHO
ほほほ
ほほほ
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!
I'LL KILL HER, AND THEN I'LL DIE TOO!
HOHOHO! I'M A BUTTER-FLY!

AND SO, AFTER I SAW THAT BIRTHMARK... THE SOURCE OF ALL THE MADNESS ..HATRED... WARPED LOVE... AFTER I SAW THAT VILE BIRTHMARK, AS IF BY MAGIC, I NEVER AGAIN SAW THE PHANTASMAL BUTTERFLY.
WE CAN'T LET HER ESCAPE! SHE'S INSANE!

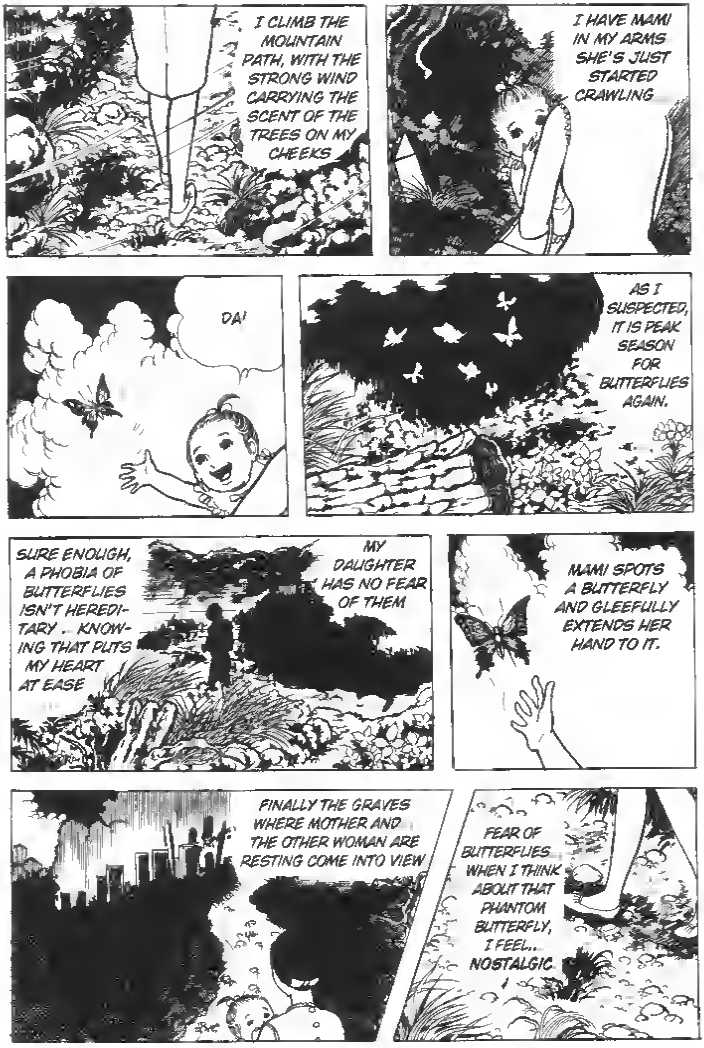
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME!!
HOHO HOHO!

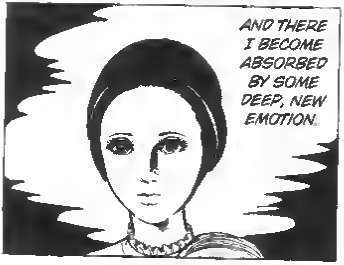
WAIT !!
BUTTER-FLIES CAN FLY!
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME! I'M A BUTTERFLY!
LOOK OUT!!

AAH!!

MEGUMI!!
I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE
IN THE END, THEY FOUND HER BODY BETWEEN THE ROCKS.
WHAT HAPPENED ?!

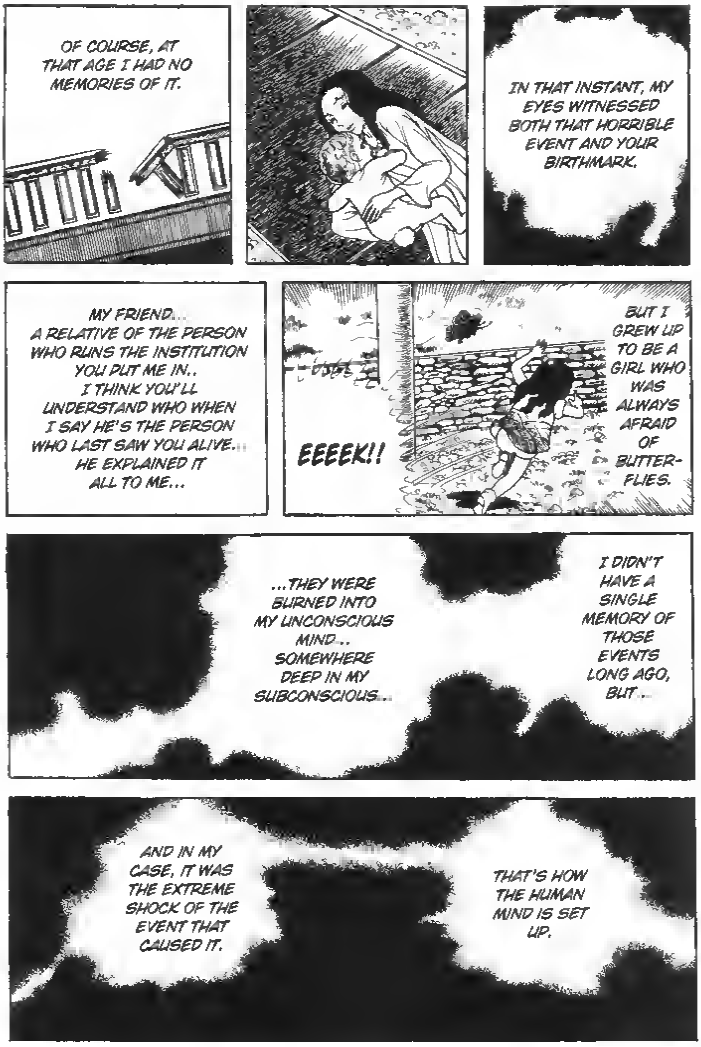
*FX SLAM
I'M OFF TO VISIT THE VILLA ONCE AGAIN.
AND BUTTER-FLIES
AS WE PASS THROUGH THE VALLEY, NAME-LESS FLOWERS BLOOM PROFUSELY.
FINALLY, THE OLD VILLA COMES FAINTLY INTO VIEW IN THE DISTANCE
THERE WILL BE SO MANY AT MY MOTHER'S GRAVE, BUT THEY WON'T AFFECT ME.
BUT I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT AFRAID OF THEM.
BUT IT'S CLOSED UP NOW. JUST IN FRONT OF IT, I GET OUT OF THE CAR.
*FX SKREE
AND AS WE GET CLOSER, THE MEMORIES GROW STRONGER IN MY HEART.


I CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN PATH, WITH THE STRONG WIND CARRYING THE SCENT OF THE TREES ON MY CHEEKS
I HAVE MAMI IN MY ARMS SHE'S JUST STARTED CRAWLING
DA!
AS I SUSPECTED, IT IS PEAK SEASON FOR BUTTERFLIES AGAIN.
SURE ENOUGH, A PHOBIA OF BUTTERFLIES ISN'T HEREDITARY .. KNOWING THAT PUTS MY HEART AT EASE
MY DAUGHTER HAS NO FEAR OF THEM
MAMI SPOTS A BUTTERFLY AND GLEEFULLY EXTENDS HER HAND TO IT.
FINALLY THE GRAVES WHERE MOTHER AND THE OTHER WOMAN ARE RESTING COME INTO VIEW
FEAR OF BUTTERFLIES WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT PHANTOM BUTTERFLY, I FEEL.. NOSTALGIC


AND THERE I BECOME ABSORBED BY SOME DEEP, NEW EMOTION.

BUT THERE WILL BE NO TRAGIC SEPARATION FOR MY DAUGHTER AND ME, WILL THERE?
MOTHER, WHO HAD SO LITTLE HAPPINESS... I REMEMBER NOTHING ABOUT YOU, BUT NOW I TOO AM A MOTHER, AND I HAVE A DAUGHTER ABOUT THE SAME AGE I WAS WHEN YOU AND I WERE SEPARATED
MY MOTHER, WHO GAVE ME LIFE...
I'M PICKING UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF, SO YOU ARE STILL WITH US.
MOTHER... WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME AND PROTECTED ME, I WANT TO THANK YOU.
FATHER'S EYES ARE ALMOST BETTER, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS MY SECOND MOTHER... BUT AS A WOMAN... SAD.
AND WHEN I THINK OF YOU..

MY PHOBIA OF BUTTER-FLIES... AND MOTHER... AND ME JUST BORN...
ALL THOSE THINGS THAT HAPPENED... IT WAS LIKE A NIGHT-MARE...
WHEN I THINK OF YOU AS A WOMAN, MY HATRED OF YOU WASHES AWAY...
BURDENED WITH SUFFERING YOUR WHOLE LIFE... AND AFRAID TO LOVE BECAUSE OF IT...
...OUT ONTO THE VERANDA!
IT ALL STARTED WHEN YOU CHASED US...
FX SHRIP
MOTHER GRABBED YOUR CLOTHES AND EXPOSED THE BIRTHMARK...


OF COURSE, AT THAT AGE I HAD NO MEMORIES OF IT.
IN THAT INSTANT, MY EYES WITNESSED BOTH THAT HORRIBLE EVENT AND YOUR BIRTHMARK.
MY FRIEND... A RELATIVE OF THE PERSON WHO RUNS THE INSTITUTION YOU PUT ME IN.. I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHO WHEN I SAY HE'S THE PERSON WHO LAST SAW YOU ALIVE... HE EXPLAINED IT ALL TO ME...
EEEEK!!
BUT I GREW UP TO BE A GIRL WHO WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF BUTTER-FLIES.
...THEY WERE BURNED INTO MY UNCONSCIOUS MIND... SOMEWHERE DEEP IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS...
I DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE MEMORY OF THOSE EVENTS LONG AGO, BUT...
AND IN MY CASE, IT WAS THE EXTREME SHOCK OF THE EVENT THAT CAUSED IT.
THAT'S HOW THE HUMAN MIND IS SET UP.

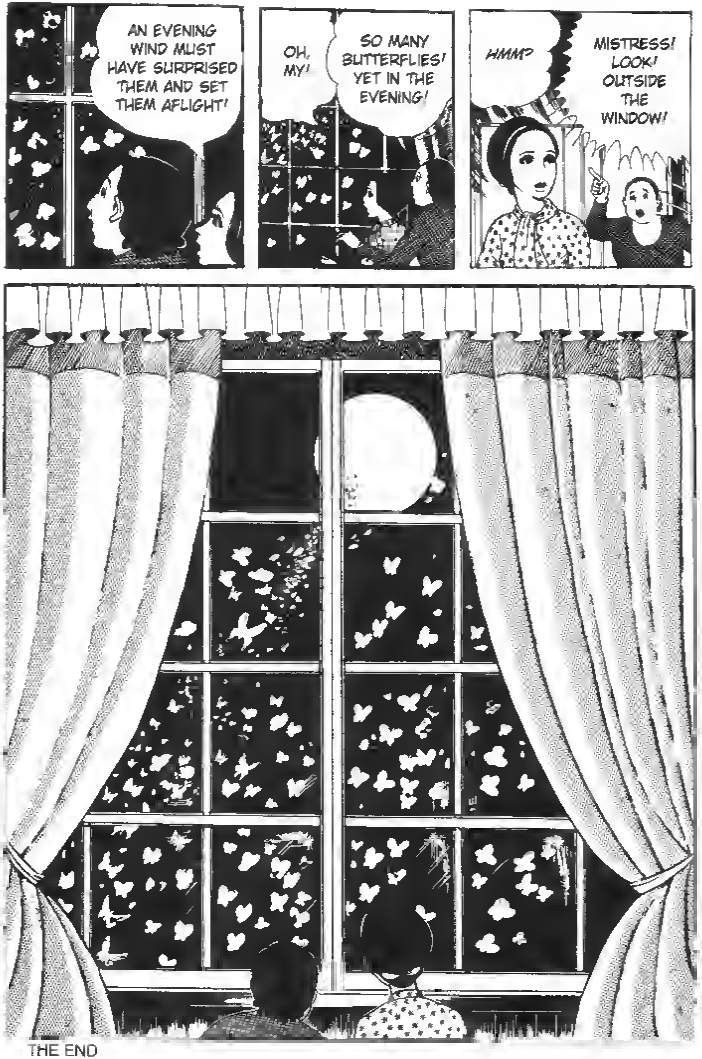
THERE IS NO DOUBT IT WAS ALL BURNED DEEP INTO MY SUBCONSCIOUS...
AND YOUR BIRTHMARK ...
THAT HORRIBLE EVENT... MY MOTHER'S DEATH... THE WHOLE TRAGIC EVENT, WHICH CAN NEVER BE UNDONE...

... BECAUSE THERE WERE VESTIGES OF MEMORIES LEFT IN MY MIND.
AFTERWARDS...IT'S CERTAIN I ASSOCIATED THE BUTTERFLIES WITH THE SHAPE OF THAT BIRTHMARK .. EVENTUALLY I THOUGHT THAT BUTTERFLIES WERE THE SOURCE OF ALL THE ILL OMENS, EVILS, AND MY FEARS...

.. IN THE END, YOU DIED BELIEVING YOU WERE A BUTTERFLY, AND NOW YOU LIE HERE AT PEACE
ALL I KNOW IS..

I HEARD OTHER EXPLANATIONS BY RORSCHACH, FREUD, AND MORE SUCH SPECIALISTS, BUT I COULDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM.

PLEASE COME TO GET US IN A WEEK. UNTIL THEN, I'D LIKE TO STAY HERE AND RELAX.
MAMI IS ALREADY ASLEEP, MY DEAR ..
BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT IT ...
YOU NOW KNOW THE REASON I WAS SO SCARED OF BUTTERFLIES ...
BUT I WANTED TO TELL IT ALL TO YOU IN ONE LONG LETTER
I'VE FINALLY WRITTEN MY WHOLE STORY IN THIS LETTER. I'M SURE MANY THINGS WILL HAVE SURPRISED YOU.
GIVE MY REGARDS TO MY FRIEND KOSE! .. WITH LOVE, MEGUMI.
SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL BUTTER-FLY.
EVEN NOW, IN DEATH, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE. SHE DIED AS A BUTTERFLY!
IT WAS THE THING SHE MOST FEARED
I'M NOT SO WORRIED ABOUT PEOPLE THINKING THAT I MAY HAVE BEEN MAD ... BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE THING *SHE* DESPISED MOST.. THAT BUTTERFLY-SHAPED BIRTHMARK MUST BE KEPT A SECRET.

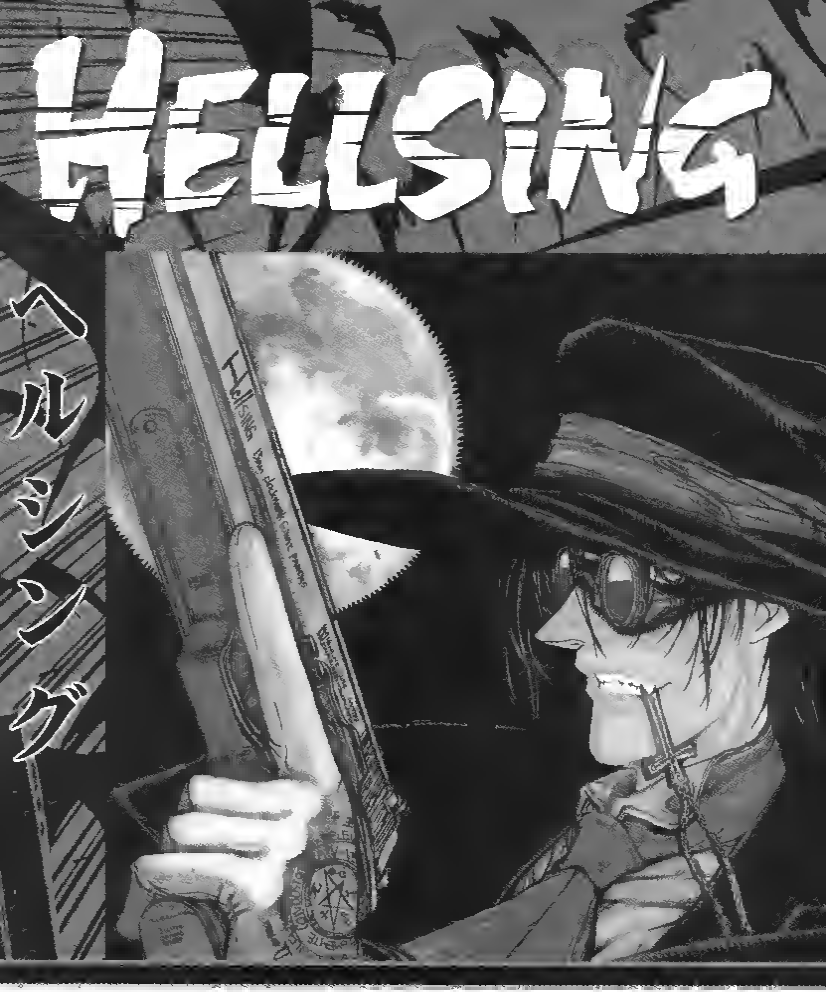

AN EVENING WIND MUST HAVE SURPRISED THEM AND SET THEM AFLIGHT!
OH, MY!
SO MANY BUTTERFLIES! YET IN THE EVENING!
HMM?
MISTRESS! LOOK! OUTSIDE THE WINDOW!

THE END

Afterword

Since I grew up in the country, I never had a fear of bugs like city kids did, even when I was little. But I wonder if humans' fear of insects may be a fundamental defensive instinct. In "Butterfly Grave" I was writing with the idea that even if I focused on an insect like the butterfly, which people think is beautiful, there might still be something disturbing about it simply by the fact of it being an insect. The shocking twist ending was notorious in its day, so I always worried about people reading the ending first. I think I was influenced by a lot of different genres when I came up with the ideas for the finale.

—Kazuo Umezu



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STOP!

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in a right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Enjoy!